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THE  
MIDLAND FLORIST,  
AND  
SUBURBAN HORTICULTURIST.

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CONDUCTED BY  
JOHN FREDERICK WOOD, F.H.S.

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VOL. I.  
JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1847.

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" To study culture, and with artful toil,  
To meliorate and tame the stubborn soil;  
To give dissimilar, yet fruitful lands,  
The grain, or herb, or plant that each demands;  
To cherish virtue in an humble state,  
And share the joys your bounty may create;  
To mark the matchless workings of the power  
That shuts within its seed the future flower;  
Bids these in form of elegance excel,  
In colour these, and those delight the smell;  
Sends nature forth, the daughter of the skies,  
To dance on earth, and charm all human eyes;  
To teach the canvass innocent deceit,  
Or lay the landscape on the snowy sheet.—  
These, these are arts pursued without a crime,  
That leave no stain upon the wing of time."

COWPER.

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THE  
MIDLAND FLORIST.

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WE scarcely know whether any apology is needed for the introduction of **THE MIDLAND FLORIST** to the notice of the horticultural and floricultural public. The poet Cowper has well said that

“The spleen is seldom felt where Flora reigns”—

And if we take the general run of enthusiastic cultivators, whether attached to the substantial productions of the kitchen garden and orchard, or the more fair and fleeting creations of the flower garden, we shall find it rare indeed that they are of bad, ungenerous dispositions, or of dissolute and depraved habits. The very care of attending nature's fair progeny, has its genial effect on their minds; and however slow (in some cases) they may be to acknowledge it, they are perhaps insensibly led whilst contemplating the various beauteous forms around them, to look through nature

up to nature's God:—and sure we are, if there is any one occupation more than another calculated to soothe the turbulent passions of man,—to bring comfort to the domestic circle, or happiness, by its humanising influence, throughout a family, and to ensure a continuance of that too often slightly prized blessing *health*, it is that of gardening, whether in the more expensive and richly stocked conservatories and grounds of the affluent, or the garden of the artizan and allotment of the labourer. The teeming bosom of the earth produces in illimitable supply its abundant treasures of flowers, fruits, and vegetables, for the happiness and enjoyment of *all*, who by skill, assiduity, and attention, are desirous to procure them. It is for the information of these that the present periodical is established,—to convey in a popular and easily understood manner, to our readers, intelligence of what is passing in the world of fruits and flowers, and to fill up a vacancy in the garden literature of the day, at a price which will be within the means of all who love a garden.

We shall not promise too much, but our utmost endeavours will be directed to make THE MIDLAND FLORIST AND HORTICULTURIST interesting, useful, and instructive.

J. F. W.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE DUKE OF LANCASTER AND PLATOFF TULIPS.

COMMUNICATED BY MR. G. W. HARDY, WARRINGTON,  
LANCASHIRE.

MR. SLATER, of Manchester, in his catalogue, says, these are both the same variety: this however I conceive to be a mistake. During the last season my attention was especially directed to them, through that period of their growth when differences in the form of the foliage can most easily be detected, that is, during the month of March, when it is from three to six inches long, and I have no hesitation in saying that whoever will give himself the trouble to compare the two at that period, will instantly perceive that it is impossible to mistake the one for the other, the difference is so striking.

My *Platoffs* are all the produce of one bulb, purchased some years ago, from a first-rate amateur grower. The foliage is alike from every bulb, at the above-named period, being strong and broad, terminating rather *abruptly* in a point, and being of a deep olive green colour, free from any lighter spots or stains.

My *Dukes of Lancaster* all came from an old amateur grower in Lancaster. The foliage of these is alike from every bulb. But besides being more erect than *Platoff*, it is also more narrow and slender, terminating very *gradually* in a sharp point, and every leaf beautifully mottled with light and dark green, presenting a very near resemblance to the foliage of a fine *Catafalque superieure*, with which it might be much more readily confounded than with *Platoff*.

There is also another point of difference, which is no less striking. *Platoff* makes a good fourth row flower, but bulbs of the *Duke of Lancaster*, of equal size, will not rise so high by six inches; and it is

often found to make a bad third row flower. Careful comparison of the blooms of these two will enable the observer to detect some difference; for although the colours are very nearly alike, the cup of *The Duke* will be found shorter and better; the feathering is also broader.

These are all important points of distinction, and amply sufficient to entitle *The Duke* to a separate place on the prize stage, from which it has been excluded in this part of the country at least, unless dignified by the name of Charles the Tenth, or Royal Sovereign, which is generally substituted for the real one. Whether George IV., Charles X., and Royal Sovereign, are distinct varieties from the two before named, I have not yet been able to prove; my observations would have been extended to these, last season, had I not been laid aside by a severe attack of rheumatism, which kept me out of the garden for a month, but I hope to settle this point next season.

I have had Charles X. from four different sources, if not five, and I am quite sure my stock comprises two, if not three, distinct varieties, one of which is *Platoff*.

At present, the impression on my mind is, that there are three distinct sorts, all included under these five names; and although the foliage of the third is more nearly like *The Duke* than *Platoff*, I think its form and colour are sufficiently well marked to enable me to select it from the rest without any difficulty.

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## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF TULIPS.

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### TO CULTIVATORS OF TULIPS.

GENTLEMEN—It is a duty we owe to each other reciprocally to give and take. Free intercourse is, and always has been, the principal channel for the spread of civilization and the arts, and by it the experience

of each is disseminated for the benefit of all. In undertaking the task I have imposed upon myself, I am actuated solely by a desire to describe in a true and simple manner, the properties of several of our leading stage flowers, and especially of such as have but recently been introduced to our notice. To the young florist I hope I may be of service, in directing his fancy and improving his judgment; to the experienced, in confirming his opinions or removing his doubts; and furnish to all a book of reference, in which to find a faithful description of every variety worthy of a place in a first-rate collection.

It may be proper to inform the reader that my strictures shall be in conformity with properties of the tulip promulgated by Mr. Glenney, except that the perfect form shall be a half circle. It will follow as a matter of course, that all flowers whose forms are shorter or longer in their cups than this standard, will be faulty in proportion to the degree in which they are greater or less than the perfect form. Having thus premised, no one can be misled from his own judgment; and however he may disapprove of a fixed rather than a fluctuating standard, he will have no difficulty in applying my observations to his own purpose.

#### ALPHA.

**ANDROMEDA**, raised by Mr. Walmsley, of Lancaster, is a third row rose, cup rather long, bottom pure, an excellent marker, and a good stage flower, whether feathered or flamed.

**BANK OF ENGLAND**, is a second row flower, cup rather long, bottom pure, and from its excellent marking is a good stage flower.

**BRITISH HERO**, raised by Mr. Naylor, of Denton, is a feathered bybloemen, of good form, pure bottom, and when more plentiful will be an excellent stage flower.

**CATHERINA**, raised by a florist named Taylor, of Chaddeston, near Middleton, Lancashire, is a rather long cupped and delicately feathered bybloemen, bottom pure, and forms an interesting variety. Its place is in the first row.

**GRACE DARLING** (Kinniburgh's), This variety was raised by a florist in Scotland, and is an excellent stage flower, whether feathered or flamed; the colour a bright rose, the bottom pure, cup good, and is a valuable acquisition to its class.

**HEN'S VAN OOSTENRIGH** is one of the scarcest Dutch varieties grown. It belongs to the Incomparables, and from its purity, regular feather, and good cup, may be considered as one of our best stage flowers. Its place is in the first row.

**JOHN BULL**, raised in the neighbourhood of Macclesfield, has been distinguished at their exhibitions as a good stage flower; it belongs to the bizarre class, and is feathered with a dark brown, is stained a little in the bottom, in other respects a good variety.

**LADY EGERTON**, raised by a florist named Banks, residing at Bedford, near Leigh, Lancashire, is a second row feathered rose, good cup, rather yellow when it first opens, but bleaches perfectly white, and will, I think, become an excellent stage flower.

**LADY OF THE LAKE**. This splendid variety was raised from the seed of Queen Charlotte, by a florist named Butler; it is a third row flamed bybloemen, of good cup, pure bottom, and a splendid and correct marker. This is a first-rate stage flower.

**LADY LILFORD**, raised from seed by W. Banks, is a brilliant coloured flamed rose, with a short cup, bottom not quite pure, and will, when more plentiful, be a good stage flower.

**LORD DURHAM**. This splendid bybloemen was raised from seed, by Mr. Naylor, of Denton; is a second row flower, with a good cup, pure bottom, and feathered with a dark purple. The stock of this splendid variety is still in the raiser's hands, and is very limited. In its flamed state it has been compared to Salvator Rosa.

**LORD KEANE** is an excellent third row feathered bizarre, in the style of Captain White, and was raised from seed, by Mr. Lightbody, of Falkirk, a very eminent florist and successful propagator from seed; the cup is good, bottom pure, and feathered with a dark brown.

[To be continued monthly.]

## CHELLASTON SEEDLING TULIPS.

So much has been said and written within these few months past, relative to these flowers, both in their favour and against them, that we conceive we shall be doing an acceptable service to the floricultural part of the community, by introducing into our little work a description of some of the most prominent varieties.

Of course it will not be a complete list. We should have wished to have also added the *synonyms*, as,



independent of some alteration in the names, which Mr. Gibbens now describes, we are certain that numbers of the breeders have been broken and named by other growers in various parts of the country. Many of these names have either been adopted by Mr. Gibbens, as in the case of Pilot, Anastasia, and Fanny Cerito, or those who have named them have adopted the designation given by the raiser, when it was discovered that he had previously broken them into colour.

That there will be much confusion for years to come is certain, but by laying a copy of his memorandums before the public, Mr. Gibbens will enable florists to form some estimate of what they may expect from the varieties which they already possess, bearing any of the following names:—

- No. 1.—*Surpasse le Grand*. This number has never been altered. Dark feathered bybloemen, superior in form and purity of cup to *Triumph Royale*, broke into colour in 1840, extremely steady in its marking. The breeder is unknown.
- No. 2.—*Enchantress*. Fine flamed bybloemen, short cup, clean, marks in the style of *Queen Charlotte*, tolerably steady, broken into colour in 1840.
- No. 4.—*Lady Flora Hastings*. Beautiful rosy purple feathered bybloemen, originally designated *The King of the Baguets*, in consequence of being similar to the *Norwich Baguet* in colour. Quite pure, with stout petals, and well-formed cup, very steady.
- No. 5.—*Grand Sultan*. Rectified in 1839, from No. 60 breeder, a very dark flamed bybloemen (nearly black), the ground colour of great purity, with the exception of a slight shade immediately below the beam. It has a good shaped cup, and stout petals.
- No. 6.—*Admirable*. Fine violet flamed bybloemen, supposed to break from No. 20. Very similar to *Venus*, if not the same, and synonymous with *Beauty of the Plain*.
- No. 7.—*Grace Darling*. Of very superior form, a fine black and white flamed bybloemen, a slight shade of light purple round the lower part of the beams. The breeder is sold out as *Grace Darling Breeder*, without any number attached to it.
- No. 13.—*Anastasia*. A feathered and occasionally flamed rosy purple, of good form and perfectly pure cup, a fourth row flower, broke in 1840 from No. 10, a fine rose breeder.
- No. 14.—*Maid of Orleans*. Originally named *La Tendresse*, a finely feathered nearly black bybloemen, good form, very fine clear cup, broken into colour in 1840, from No. 43 breeder.

- No. 15.—*Grand Monarque*. First called *Bridegroom*. Broken in 1840, from No. 46 breeder. This is a first-class flower, a dark purple feathered bybloemen, of first-rate form and purity.
- No. 16.—*Elegance*. A finely feathered dark bybloemen, with a pure cup, and of good form, broken into colour in 1840.

[To be continued.]

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## ON PINKS.

BY H. S. M.

IN forwarding my contribution to *The Midland Counties Florist*, I am extremely desirous that the opinion of florists in this part of the country should be well understood with regard to this easily cultivated, neat, and sweet-scented favourite of my garden. I know not how it is, but I get but few south country pinks that at all suit my fancy. True, my judgment may be warped, or I may be young in the fancy, or I may have been directed to make a wrong estimate of what really ought to form a first-rate flower. I also am unfashionable enough to admire plain pinks, and cannot conceive how it is that I do not find them named in the lists emanating from the neighbourhood of London. There seems to me to be something so singular in the fact that, if our southern florists and we northerns agree as to what properties are required, so few which we have yet received in this part of the kingdom at all come up to our style. Without wishing to disparage any one's flowers, I would ask whether Keyne's Col. Baker (which, when it came out was said to be first-rate), Dry's Earl of Uxbridge, Brown's Eclipse, White's Warden, with the later varieties, such as Ward's Great Britain, Masterpiece, &c. are fair specimens of what I ought to consider fine show flowers. On the other hand, I conceive Greensides to be too small and too thin, the very antipodes of Ward's Great Britain, or Simmonite's Coronation; Dreadnought, Jones's Tasso, Admiral Codrington, are too small, or have too few petals for the present system of judging.

I have grown Williams's Thirza, Lee's Sturge, Fairbairn's Bob Lawrence, Jones's Huntsman, Janson's Lady Milner, Taylor's Mango, Hudson's Climax, Headley's Duke of Northumberland, and though these certainly have faults, still I think they are varieties in the right direction.

I want the size of the London flowers, with the smooth edge and perfect lacing of the sorts above enumerated; I want to see them without a confused mass of small strap-shaped petals in the middle of the flower, with not less than three tiers of petals well imbricating each other, with a few perfectly shaped small ones in the centre, to form a crown.

Before concluding, why should a flower having a pre-eminent form, smooth petal, and pure ground colour, be excluded from a stand, even if it have no lacing? It would have three points to one in its favour.

I may be considered a novice for putting the last question, but I write for information, and I trust some of your correspondents will put me right, if I am in error.

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#### ON THE

### CULTIVATION OF THE AURICULA.

BY MR. J. STATON, FLORIST, RUDDINGTON, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.

As the culture of the auricula is rapidly increasing in this neighbourhood, and having had frequent applications as to the mode of treatment I pursue, I beg to offer a few remarks on that subject. I will not by any means presume to dictate to the veteran florists in this part, neither shall I hold any argument, should the assertions I am about to make be contradicted by older and more experienced growers; but as the routine of treatment I have adopted has been most successful, I shall make a few observations, for the instruction of those parties who feel anxious to com-

mence the culture of this lovely tribe of florists' flowers; and I have no doubt, if they are strictly adhered to, the youngest competitor may command success. The reason why I wish this treatise to be inserted in a publication like the present is, that a reference may be made at any time, which perhaps may save me the trouble of writing long epistles in future; and it will be more likely to be preserved than in the columns of a newspaper. First then, it will be necessary to speak of the frame, which we will suppose to be nine feet long and three feet six inches wide; this will hold about 105 blooming plants (which will be sufficient for most amateurs), but should the grower wish for a more extensive collection, he can have two or more frames, as he thinks proper. Mine is made of three-quarter-inch deal board; three boards, or thirty-three inches deep at the back, and one board, or eleven inches deep in front. This affords a better opportunity for the wet getting off, and there is not so much danger of drip from the glass. The sashes, two in number, are hung at the back of the frame, with hinges, by which means the front of the sashes may be tilted up to admit air. I have a stage fixed in the frame, consisting of seven shelves, placed exactly eleven inches beneath the glass: on the shelves the pots stand. I have also three holes, eighteen inches long and eight inches wide, cut in the middle board of the back of the frame, with slide shuts, to open or close at pleasure, that during the months of November and December, when there is very little evaporation, the sashes may be raised in front to the height of six or eight inches, and thus allow a regular current of air to pass through the frame, which will prevent the plants being injured by damp; for more plants are destroyed at this season of the year, for want of proper ventilation, than by any other cause.

I have another contrivance, and that is a deal plank, the length, and another the width of the frame, laid across each other; they are screwed together in four

places, and a round hole, four inches in diameter, is cut through the planks where they cross; a post is placed in the ground where I wish the frame to be fixed, and shouldered to within four inches of the ground; the planks are then placed on the post, and the frame is put upon them; but the ends of the frame must be cut, so as to allow the front and back to rest upon the under plank; by this means the frame may be turned to any aspect in an instant, similar to a post windmill.

THE SOIL OR COMPOST I use is one barrow load of decayed sandy turf, two years old; one barrow load of decayed leaf mould, one barrow load of rotten sheep dung, and about half a peck of stick ashes; these must be mixed together two months previous to potting time, and turned over once a week, so that every part may be well exposed to the sun, and afterwards sifted through a fine sieve.

[To be continued.]

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PICOTEES.—Every florist must admire the addition to our stock of fine show flowers made by the rose or scarlet edged picotee. This class has, till late years, been excluded from the prize stage in the north, without any show of reason, except, as in the case of plain pinks, about London, *they were not fashionable*. We would now plead for the more extended cultivation of the yellow picotee, and we think it imperative on every florist society to give prizes for the best that can be produced at their exhibitions. We are quite sure that a more hardy constitutioned race are springing up around us, and that the tender, ragged, foreign varieties are fast disappearing. Flowers of better and more decided colour, with smoother and thicker petals, may now be obtained; and if these sorts are allowed to be shown in competition, the attention of cultivators will be directed towards them, and more beautiful varieties originated.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

A LIST OF SIX OF THE HEAVIEST GOOSEBERRIES  
IN EACH COLOUR,  
SHOWN DURING THE AUTUMN OF 1846.

RED.		YELLOW.	
	dwt. gr.		dwt. gr.
London .....	27 21	Catherina .....	25 0
Wonderful .....	24 14	Pilot.....	22 21
Wistaston .....	21 11	Dublin.....	22 14
King Cole .....	21 16	Forget-me-not .....	21 22
Topgallant .....	21 6	Leader.....	19 22
Slaughterman.....	21 6	Gunner .....	19 20
GREEN.		WHITE.	
Thumper .....	21 13	Freedom .....	23 2
Turnout .....	20 19	Eagle .....	20 10
Queen Victoria .....	21 10	Foley .....	20 6
Green River .....	21 6	Lord Valentia.....	19 1
Overall.....	19 9	Lady Leicester .....	18 12
Peacock .....	19 1	Snow Ball .....	18 23

RESULT OF SOME EXPERIMENTS WITH ROSES,  
MADE DURING THE THREE LAST SEASONS.

EXTRACTED FROM THE EXCELLENT DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF  
MR. THOMAS RIVERS, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTS.

I HAVE found night soil, mixed with the drainings of the dung-hill, or even with common ditch or pond water, so as to make a thick liquid, the best possible manure for roses, poured on the surface of the soil twice in winter, from one to two gallons to each tree. December and January are the best months. The soil need not be stirred till spring, and then merely loosened two or three inches deep, with the prongs of a fork. For poor soils, and on lawns, previously removing the turf, this will be found most efficacious.

For protecting the Bourbon, Chinese, Tea-scented, and other roses on their own roots, nothing can be

better than moss procured from shady banks or woods. It should be placed round each plant, one or two inches from the stem and branches, not closer, about nine inches or a foot thick. This prevents the ground from being frozen; and although the tops of the shoots may be killed, they grow vigorously from the roots, on the return of mild weather.

This covering may be applied early in December, and remain around the plants till the end of March, or even later, if a cold backward spring.

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## PROPERTIES OF THE CARNATION AND PICOTEE,

AS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED AMONG THE FIRST CULTIVATORS  
OF THE DAY, AND AT THE PRINCIPAL FLORAL SOCIETIES.

### CARNATION.

**GENERAL FORM AND SIZE.**—Round outline as seen in front, formed by the guard petals, and those having perfectly smooth edges, half-round as looked at in profile, formed by a regular rising face and crown. The perfection of size, two and a half to three inches.

**TEXTURE.**—Thickness of petals and richness of surface are absolutely necessary to secure the advantage of whichever colour may be present.

**COLOUR AND CHARACTER.**—Ground, pure white; every spot, or shade, or stain is a blemish. Stripes to be broad, whole, and well defined at the edges, and whatever shade they may be, dense and perfect throughout. In bizarres, the whole of the light and dark to be equal in quantity. In flakes, twice as much colour as white, and in complete stripes.

**SYMMETRY.**—The petals should be slightly cupped, as it gives great strength and reflects the colour; they should lie in well arranged circular tiers, one row above another, and each petal covering the place where the lower petals meet. Each row should be

sufficiently short of the under one to expose a good portion of the surface, and form the half ball. Not less than nineteen petals will do this properly, supposing them even wide enough to make five from each row or circle.

### PICOTEE.

**FORM, SIZE, TEXTURE, AND SYMMETRY,** the same as the carnation.

**COLOUR AND CHARACTER.**—The colour should be whole at the outer edges, and whether heavy or light, (that is broad or narrow) form a delicate feather on the inner edge. The ground pure white; any spot, or bars, or stain, or shade, except the edging, being a decided blemish.—*From Mr. John Dickson's Catalogue.* (See advertisement.)

### FIFTY EXTRA FINE RANUNCULUSES.

#### SELFS.

*Œil Noir*, very fine dark rich colour  
*Naxara*, extra fine dark, one of the best of its class  
*Fête Nocturne*, rich purple, fine  
*Duke of Bedford*, large fine formed crimson  
*Giles's Eliza*, very fine straw, extra form, super variety  
*Costar's Apollo*, very fine dark, rather coarse in petal  
*Tyso's Laureate*, very fine pure yellow  
*Comtesse Plaisance*, very fine yellow, good form  
*Les Vos*, dark purple, very fine  
*Rosa Montana*, superior bright rosy crimson, excellent form  
*Tyso's Nivis*, fine white  
*Costar's Tippoo Saib*, rich dark  
*Condorcet*, fine pure purple  
*Bouquet Sanspareil*, dark olive, very fine

#### SPOTS, STRIPED, AND EDGED FLOWERS.

*Flavimorus*, cream, with purple edge, very fine  
*Tyso's Victoria*, clear white, with crimson edge, very fine  
*Aust's Henrietta*, white, crimson edge, good shape, very fine  
*Horatio*, yellow edged, fine, free bloomer, not quite a pure ground  
*Tyso's Herbert*, yellow, with red edge, very fine  
*Temeraire*, white, red striped, one of the best of its class  
*Lightbody's William Penn*, white, with purple edge, very fine  
 and strongly marked



*Melanges des Beantes* red and yellow striped, an excellent old flower

*Tyso's Alexis*, yellow spotted, extra fine, good form

*Tyso's Attractor*, white, with purple edge, large, very fine

*Kilgour's Queen Victoria*, cream, crimson edged, large and extra fine

*Costar's Coronation*, buff, pink mottled, very fine

*Grand Monarque*, yellow edged, fine, petal rather loose

*Aust's Nonsuch*, white, purple edged, distinct, very fine

*Tyso's Felix*, buff, with distinct spot, extra fine

*Lightbody's No Mistake*, cream, purple edged, strong marking, very fine

*Dr. Franklin*, fine clear white, with purple edge, very fine

*Tyso's Edgar*, yellow, coffee edged, excellent form, extra fine

*Quentin Durward*, yellow edged, very fine colours, rather thin

*Tyso's Delectus*, yellow, red edged, very fine

*Lightbody's Rob Roy*, cream, crimson edge, very fine

*Imbert*, yellow, with faint brown spot, very good

*Tyso's Flaminius*, yellow, with dark spot, extra, one of the best of its class

*Herald*, white, with crimson edge, very fine, excellent shape, high crown

*Tyso's Creon*, buff, dark edging, very fine

*Glacia*, yellow mottled, large and very fine

*Paxos*, white, with deep purple edge, extra fine

*Biddal's Duke of Wellington*, yellow, delicate edged, very fine

*Macrobius*, white, spotted, very fine

*Lightbody's Endymion*, white, with delicate rose edging, very good

*Tyso's Premium*, white, purple spot, very fine, high crown

*Aust's Queen Victoria*, white, with delicate edging, very fine

*Saladin*, fine yellow, with faint spot

*Sophia* or *Ma Délice*, cream, with rose edge, very good

*Tyso's Vendome*, cream, with dark purple edge, extra fine, rather sportive

*Waterstone's Epirus*, yellow, spotted, very fine

The above fifty sorts are selected for their quality, without respect to their age or novelty, and they will be found worthy of a place in the collections of cultivators for competition.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

## NEW HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

FROM THE BOTANICAL REGISTER.

**MULGEDIUM** *Macrorrhizon*. (LARGE-ROOTED MULGEDE.)—This, although its flowers are similar to the succory, is nevertheless a charming perennial, with

numerous trailing stems, two feet long, and scarcely rising more than a few inches high. For decorating rock-work, it is unsurpassed by any other autumn perennial. It grows willingly in a soil composed of sand, peat, and loam, and is hardy enough to stand the winter in the open border; but its large fleshy roots render it impatient of moisture, and it is frequently destroyed in winter by damp. It should not only be planted in a very dry situation, but protected either by a hand-glass, or dry leaves. It is easily increased by seeds sown in pots, and placed in a cold frame. It flowers in September and October, and remains for a long time in perfection, trailing over stones or rocks, and covering them with a carpet of lively blue. It was raised in the garden of the Horticultural Society, from seeds received from Dr. Royle, and stated to have been collected in Cashmere or Thibet.

*Silene Schafta.* (THE SCHAFTA.)—A very beautiful hardy plant, producing a great number of slender downy stems, which are terminated by four or five bright purple flowers, more than an inch long. Its stems rise about five or six inches in height, and it is a very desirable plant, blooming profusely from June to October. The Horticultural Society received it from Dr. Fischer, who obtained it from the botanic garden at Dorpat.

*Primula Involucrata.* (THE RUFFED PRIMROSE.)—This is a hardy alpine perennial, attaining the height of six inches, very sweet scented, and requiring a compost of sandy loam and leaf mould. It requires rather a shady situation, and to be freely supplied with moisture during the growing season. It should however be kept rather dry when in its dormant state, or it is apt to perish in the winter. It was raised in the garden of the Horticultural Society, from seeds from the north of India, presented by Captain William Munroe, in April, 1845.

*Saxifraga Thysanodes.* (THE COARSE FRINGED INDIAN SAXIFRAGE.—A hardy, robust, and pretty plant, flowering in April, and reaching from six to eight inches in height. It is increased by dividing the old roots when the plant is at rest, and grows freely in any good garden soil.

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### ON MANURES.

[We extract the following from "*Morton on the Nature and Property of Soils, &c.*;" a work which ought to be read by all who have gardens. We shall occasionally give extracts from this valuable book, which is too expensive to come within the reach of many amateur florists.]

As manure is of such vital importance to the gardener and farmer, every attention should be paid to the collection of the materials necessary to form it; every vegetable substance, together with the waste earth of ditches, road sides, the sides of the fields, yards, &c. will add to the compost heap, not only in quantity, but also in quality, if proper care in the mixing be attended to.

Weeds of every kind will be available before they come to seed, or rather before they blossom, as the seeds of many of them are perfected before the blossom drops off; and it should be kept in mind, that no fermentation in the dung-hill will destroy the vegetative power of a single seed.

When vegetable matter is fermenting in a dung-hill, it should be mixed and covered with earth, which will imbibe the volatile or gaseous matter that is thrown off during its fermentation; and if there be a large portion of animal manure in the compost, it should have a bed of earth to imbibe all the carbonaceous matter that runs from it; and on every turning over which we think it right to give the mass, we should add an additional quantity of earth to cover it with.

Much earth should be used in all dunghills, as the earth that is thus impregnated, is nearly, if not alto-

gether, as valuable as the dung itself, in altering and improving the soil to which it is applied.

But in these composts, regard should be had to the nature of the soil to which we intend to apply them ; for we should regard manure more as an alterative than as food for plants. A compost for a light soil should be formed of cold manure,—the dung of animals which chew the cud, of clayey or tenacious earth, and the cleaning of ditches, or other water-fed earth. The compost for strong tenacious soils should, on the other hand, be formed of hot manure,—the dung of animals that do not chew the cud, such as horses and pigs. These should be mixed with light, sandy, dry, porous earth, from rick-yards or other places.

Compost made of cattle dung and clayey loam, or any heavy tenacious substance, is the best manure for light land ; long straw, or unfermented dung, as stable dung, or any substance which is loose and friable, should never be used on sandy soils.

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EXTRACT FROM AN ADDRESS, BY THE REV. H. E. GRAHAM, RECTOR OF LUDGVAN, CORNWALL, AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT COTTAGE GARDENING SOCIETY.—Many years ago, a kind lady, of high rank (the Hon. Mrs. Grey, of Duffryn, near Cardiff), came, by the death of her father, into the possession of a very large estate. When she at first looked round, she saw the most miserable cottagers that could be ; some of them had gardens large enough to support two or three families, but every thing was uncultivated and like a wilderness. The first step she took was, not to build schools, as some persons would have done, but she commenced encouraging the cottagers belonging to her estate to cultivate their gardens. She said she would do nothing for them until they raised flowers and vegetables ; and she offered to supply them with seeds, which if they did not know how to sow, her gardener should show them. The consequence was, that from being a wretched wilderness,

the place became one of the most beautiful spots in the kingdom; and then his friend, with her usual good judgment, built a magnificent school-house. She was now gone to her rest, but he supposed that scarcely in any part of the kingdom, could now be found such cultivated gardens, such fine flowers, and such flourishing schools.

**AURICULAS.**—As the undermentioned varieties are not much known in the midland counties, we extract them from a report of the first exhibition, in 1846, of the South London Floricultural Society, W. Trahar, Esq. gave a gold medal for *the best collection, raised and grown by the exhibitor*. This was given to Mr. James Dickson, for the following, which are stated to be splendid varieties:—Unique, Earl Grey, Duke of Wellington, Richard Headley, Matilda, and Duke of Cambridge. First-class certificates were also awarded to J. Chapman, Esq. for a seedling named *Sophia*, and to Mr. James Dickson, for *Lady Sale*.

**MANURE FOR CABBAGES.**—The following hint might be acceptable for cottagers and other growers of cabbages:—Instead of wasting manure in setting the plants, as soon as they are well established open as large a hole as you can with a potato dibble, or any good substitute, and fill the opening with soap-suds, chamber-ley, soot, or other similar compound, brought to the consistence of tolerably thick paint, or such as will just pour from a watering-pot with the rose off. If a tank of liquid manure is at hand, thicken it with soil, sand, sawdust, or other available substance: nothing can be better, and certainly nothing so economical. All kinds of cabbages are greedy of salt in weak solution. Make the hole close to, but not to touch the plants. As soon as one row is finished, beginning at the first hole, turn a portion of the adjacent soil into the hole with your shoe or any gardening instrument. One dose, if properly administered, will do.—*Newspaper par.*

## NOTICES OF NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

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Under this head we propose to embody all the information possible, calculated to interest our readers; and shall now quote from the *Journal of the Horticultural Society of London*, some account of

### THE JEFFERSON PLUM.

THIS is an American variety of the highest excellence. It was presented to the Society in 1841, by Mr. James Barnes, who obtained it for his nursery, at Edinburgh, from Mr. Wilson, nurseryman, New York. It fruited for the first time in the garden of the Society, last season,—an unfavourable one for plums and fruits generally;—nevertheless, the variety in question was found to possess so much merit as to render a drawing of it desirable, from a specimen produced on a standard, to which the rest on the tree were very similar.

It appears from Mr. Downing's *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, recently published, that the Jefferson Plum was raised by the late Judge Buel, and that the original tree was growing in his garden, near Albany. The judicious author of the above-mentioned work says, "If we were asked which we think most desirable and beautiful of all dessert plums, we should undoubtedly give the name of this variety."

No one can read this statement without recollecting the well-known excellence of the Green Gage, and questioning whether in point of flavour it can possibly be equalled by the variety under consideration. To say that the Green Gage, under the most favoura-

ble circumstances for acquiring perfection, would be surpassed; might prove an exaggeration. That remains to be determined. In the mean time it can be stated, that in the past unfavourable season, in which only there has been an opportunity for comparison, "*the Jefferson was found decidedly superior to the Green Gage.*"

The fruit is large, roundish oval; skin dark yellow, remarkably speckled with purple and brownish red; flesh deep orange, slightly adhering to the stone, juicy, exceedingly rich, and sugary. Ripe the third week in September, and appears to be a great bearer as a standard.

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## NEW FRUITS.

**REINE CLAUDE DE BAVEY.**—A variety of the Green Gage, nearly double in size, and ripening from ten days to a fortnight later. In the *Annales de Flore et de Pomone*, the following description of this fine fruit is given:—"This beautiful and excellent plum is worthy of a place by the side of our old favourite the Green Gage, of which it possesses the good qualities, and far surpasses it in size, measuring six inches or more in circumference. It ripens a little later than the Green Gage, generally about the end of September. This most excellent plum has been raised from seed by M. Esperin de Malines, an old officer of Napoleon, who has turned his sword into a pruning knife."

**GUTHRIE'S APRICOT.**—A yellow plum, raised by Mr. Guthrie, of Dundee. Ripens end of September.

**FELLENBERG.**—A full sized purple oval plum. Ripens the middle of October.

**KNIGHT'S GREEN DRYING PLUM.**—Large as the Washington. Ripens the end of September.

**ST. MARTIN'S QUETSCHÉ.**—Yellowish white, will hang on the tree till November, a rich and valuable late plum.

**DE MONTFORT.**—Large purple, ripens in August, succeeding Royal Hative.

**BICTON STRAWBERRY.**—This variety equals Keen's Seedling in size and productiveness, but is usually about a month later. It is a fine white, and is considered a great acquisition.

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**BLACK NAPLES CURRANT.**—In the excellent catalogue of fruits published by the London Horticultural Society, this variety is stated to be the *best*. To this we bear willing testimony. It is decidedly better flavoured, longer in the bunch, and larger in the berry (points of great importance) than the Black Grape. The foliage is also handsomer than the Grape, and appears to remain longer on the bush than that variety. We would advise all parties who are about to stock their small gardens (especially our Leicester friends, who have allotments on the free-men's piece), to plant Black Naples in preference to any other of that colour. They will not repent following our advice.

**FASTOLFF RASPBERRY.**—This fine variety, so extensively cultivated and sold out by Messrs. Youell, nurserymen, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, is of first-rate excellence, possessing fine flavour, size, and colour, with a disposition to bear most abundantly, and that too till a very late period in the season. A better sort cannot be planted.

**SCALTER'S MAGNUM BONUM RASPBERRY.**—As a white variety this is worthy of extensive cultivation, being of strong and robust habit, very prolific, combined with fine flavour and colour. It attains a very large size.



**BURTON'S SEEDLING APPLE.**—This we saw exhibited at Leicester, and were much struck with its appearance. It somewhat resembles a very fine Manks Codlin when grown in the shade, being of a deep cream colour, the fruit looking as if it were varnished. It is of good size and a very great bearer. The flesh is rather soft, but of fine flavour; and from the description given by Messrs Warner, nurserymen, of Leicester, we should imagine it well adapted for cultivating as a dwarf (we would never recommend standards, except for orchards or hedge-rows) or espalier, in small gardens.

### SEEDLING GOOSEBERRIES.

THE past gooseberry season was peculiarly unpropitious, and though we subjoin the names of twelve seedlings, which went out last October and November, the weights attached, we should imagine, would be greatly increased in a favourable summer.

	dwt.	grs.
Mr. John Harrison, Ince, Blundell Hall, Great Crosby, Liverpool, <i>London Rival</i> (Red)		
Mr. Henry Faircloughs, Pigeon's Hill, Lydiate, Ormskirk, <i>Lightning</i> (Yellow) .....	18	6
Mr. John Denarlys, Mr. Thomas Thorp, Spread Eagle, Hatherlow, <i>New Chapel</i> (White) .....	19	10
Mr. J. Finney, Stanton, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire, <i>Lincoln</i> (Red) .....	17	10
Mr. John Henshaw, Handforth, near Wilmslow, Cheshire, <i>White Cockade</i> .....	18	16
Mr. Henry Bradbury, yellow seedling (No weight or direction given)		
Mr. James Crompton's white seedling, <i>Fair Star</i> , went out at the Wilton's Arms, Pastwich, Lancashire (No weight given)		
Mr. George Horrox, green seedling, <i>Gretna Green</i> , went out at Mr. Joseph Shepherd's, New White Lion Inn, Blackley, near Manchester (No weight of the last year given)		
Mr. James Buerdsill's yellow seedling, <i>Yellow Boy</i> , sold out at the same time and place as the preceding		

Mr. Jonathan Goodier's green seedling, *Tom Joiner*, sold out at Mr. James Renshaw's, the Blacksmiths' Arms, Newton Heath, near Manchester

Mr. Joseph Heywood's green seedling, *Trick*, sold out at Mr. John Smithie's, Woodman Inn, Wood-street, Middleton

Mr. John Smithie's red seedling, *Providence*, went out at his own house, Woodman Inn, Middleton

*Gooseberry Grower's Register.*

**KERR'S HARRIET PINK**—We learn from a very authentic source, that this is a flower of first-rate excellence, and of those properties which belong more to the midland style than what is usually seen in many of the southern varieties. We have had it described as of first-rate form, with smooth, thick, uniform petals, the lacing being well laid on, and of a beautiful bright scarlet. We make no doubt it will be a welcome addition to the most select collection.

**KIRTLAND'S LORD VALENTIA PINK.**—This also is described as a fine sort, though too much like Gaylad (which, by the by, is rather strap-shaped in the petals) to be advisable to exhibit in the same pan.

**THE CLOTH OF GOLD NOISETTE ROSE** is said to be an indifferent bloomer, requiring the shoots to remain full length, and to be grown against a wall. During the past summer (1846), we happened to have some half standards in the nursery; these having pushed a vigorous shoot to the extent of three feet, we were induced to take off at least a foot from the top; they immediately threw out laterals from each bud, and we were somewhat surprised to find in the course of a few weeks, some fine and well-formed flower buds at the point of each shoot, and which, when in a half-blown state, were splendid; as the flower expanded the petals became confused, and assumed rather a ragged appearance. These plants grew on a strong cold clayey loam, and prove that under proper management, this fine rose will bloom satisfactorily even as far north as Nottingham.

**WALCHEREN BROCOLI, OR CAULIFLOWER.**—A few genuine seeds of this most valuable production were presented by Mr. Legge, gardener, Bishopsthorpe, by whom the variety was first produced. The heads are large, firm, white, like a very fine cauliflower, which in fact it closely resembles in appearance, except that the leaves are not so plain as those of the cauliflower. The difference in constitution must, however, be very considerable, for it not only stands the winter cold, but likewise the summer drought, much better than cauliflowers do; scarcely a head of the latter could be obtained in the dry, hot summer of 1844, and at the time a quarter of Walcheren Brocoli formed beautiful heads, of uniform closeness. The following are notes respecting it, from Mr. Legge:—"For the supply of a family, sow the third week in April, middle and end of May, the middle and end of June, and the middle and end of July. This attention will give a regular supply till the end of the year. I had a regular supply, last year, till January 21st. For the purpose of sowing seed, I recommend to sow my Walcheren Brocoli at the time the winter cauliflower is sown, say about the 25th or 27th of August, and winter the plants under hand-glasses, as cauliflowers. Give them good soil, not too light, nor leave more than three or four plants under each glass, and let them be well attended to with respect to air." It is more deserving of attention than all the races of sulphur, purple, and cream-coloured brocoli put together. Some amongst these may be good as regards size and quality, but the colour is always objectionable; and no one would certainly think of using any except white, if he could help it. There is now no necessity in almost any case, for by timely sowings, the Walcheren will afford a long and excellent supply, equal in quality and appearance to cauliflower.—*Horticultural Society's Journal*.

**MITCHELL'S ROYAL ALBERT RHUBARB.**—We have received the following notice of this fine variety, from

VOL. I.

D

Mr. Mitchell:—"The Royal Albert Rhubarb was raised by myself, and is very prolific and grows to a large size on good ground. I had in one day, in Covent Garden market, in the month of February, from an open field, 145 dozen bunches, which proves its precocity." The above rhubarb is a very fine red colour, and appears to be a most desirable variety.

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## REVIEWS.

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### THE GARDENER'S ALMANACK,

BY GEORGE W. JOHNSON, ESQ.

CONTAINS much useful and interesting matter, amongst which we may notice a description, with four plans, of the Polmaise system of heating, the perusal of which (or if more lengthened information is required, see the *Gardener's Chronicle*) we are sure will be of service to those of our readers who contemplate heating either pits, frames, or greenhouses; independent of which, there are excellent articles on grafting, budding out plants, new fruits and culinary vegetables, rotation of crops, tree guards, window gardens, effects of poison on plants, succession pears, garden imports, with a copious list of new and beautiful plants made known during 1846; there are also tables to calculate wages, produce, weight of manure, &c. with many other things highly useful to the gardener and amateur.

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### JOHNSON'S GARDENERS' DICTIONARY.

WE have just had *Johnson's Gardener's Dictionary* sent for our perusal, and on carefully looking it

through, we must say that its contents are calculated to be of great service to the amateur as well as to the professed gardener. The editor has spared no pains in consulting all the best works which would elucidate the various points of culture and management treated of in its pages, and he has eminently succeeded. We have not room to make long extracts, but shall content ourselves with noticing the observations made on raising seedling lilies. We anticipate that the hybridized varieties of these noble flowers will form a prominent feature in the adornment of our gardens, as well as making first-rate subjects of competition. Independent of the facility with which they may be cultivated, the operation of crossing with other varieties may easily be performed; and we know of no flower which we can with more confidence recommend to the care and attention of the amateur gardener, or one which would more amply repay the trouble bestowed. On this subject, the editor quotes Mr. Groom, one of our most successful cultivators of this splendid tribe of plants: he observes, "In hybridizing, care should be always taken to save seed from those flowers which have the best shape; for I believe the form of the future flower is much more dependant on the kind from which the seed is saved than on that which furnishes the pollen: the pollen generally gives the colour. It is also highly desirable that the flower from which the pollen is taken should be darker than that producing the seed; for I have found in such cases, the seedlings have been much more beautiful (being frequently spotted or striped) than when I have reversed the process. I have seen this occur in so marked a manner in the ranunculus, that I have adopted it as a principle, never to take pollen from a lighter coloured flower."

We shall, at some future period, describe the best manner of cross breeding flowers, or hybridizing by manual impregnation; but must now close our remarks, most cordially recommending the *Gardener's Dictionary* to the notice of our readers.

## POETRY.

## VERSES,

*Written after the union of the "Felton Florists' Society" and the "Floral and Horticultural," and sung at the second Exhibition of the "Felton Union of Florists and Horticulturists," June 2nd, 1845.*

TUNE—"Of a' the airts the wind can blaw."

HAIL, happy spring of forty-five!

A UNION thou hast brought,  
Cementing interests all in one—  
Just what we all have sought :  
We'll show our beauties as before,  
While all will now declare  
That it is best for all to blend  
The useful with the rare.

But of all the rare and beauteous gems  
That grace the garden fair,  
This day has shown the kings of all,  
None can with them compare :—  
Look at their tints! they charm the  
eye,

And banish every care ;  
Oh! nothing can their charms outvie  
But the charms of the lovely fair.

And while the tulip we extol,  
We'll give the reason why ;  
'Tis not because their gaudy hues  
Attract the vulgar eye,—  
No! 'tis because their varied charms,  
As thus they brightly shine,  
Remind us of the Almighty hand—  
Omnipotence divine!

What bliss beside the bed to stand,  
As silently they preach,  
And tell us of His wondrous hand!  
The atheist they might teach.  
Talk of the painter's brush! 'tis vain  
To match the wondrous hand  
Who fashioned them, created us,  
And yon bright systems plann'd.

Felton Bridge End, May 30th, 1845.

But while this flower we elevate

To Flora's lovely throne,  
Think not that we o'erlook the rest,—  
We love the gems, each one. [eye,  
And while with them we charm the  
And beautify the soil,  
The parsnip and the leek we grow,  
To make the "KAIL-POT" boil.

The show is past, the flowers are gone,  
Their peaceful reign is o'er ;  
Another year they'll spring again  
As beauteous as before.  
But if we live to see them not,  
They'll tell our children dear,  
The care their father took of them  
While yet he linger'd here.

Then, brethren all, "united" be,  
And through Northumbria's length,  
Prove Bacon right when he declar'd  
That "UNION" was true "strength."  
For friendship will unite us all  
In one harmonious whole,  
And discord ever banished be  
Far as from pole to pole.

Let us "united" imitate  
The tulip's peaceful reign, [come  
That when our eternal spring shall  
We may spring with joy again.  
And when we moulder in the grave,  
Let it be our children's pride  
That we lived in peace with all the  
world,  
And in peace with all we died.

W. HARRISON.

## QUERIES.

I am desirous of planting a few dozen gooseberry trees. I do not exhibit, but want them more particularly for cropping. I grow several old sorts, which have stood in my garden for twenty years to my knowledge ; the fruit is small, and the trees are mossed, and appear worn out. If you, or any of your readers acquainted with the various varieties grown in the mid-

land counties, would furnish me with a list of six of the best of each colour, you would confer a favour on your well-wisher,  
JAMES EVANS.

I have been led to understand that many of the large show gooseberries are of inferior flavour: is it really so? Mine is a small garden, and I am anxious to have a few of the large gooseberries, the weights of which, in comparison with those of my production, are enormous, but I would not sacrifice flavour to size. Any information calculated to guide me in the selection of a few of the best, will place me under considerable obligations.  
RIBES.

Will you favour me with a list of what you consider the best and most suitable varieties of carnations and picotees for a young beginner (and which may be obtained at a moderate price), in your next number?  
J. R.

I hail with pleasure the announcement of the new periodical, the *Midland Florist*, and myself and many friends in this neighbourhood, intend to patronize the work. Could you, or any of your correspondents, inform me whether it is really true that the Chellaston breeder tulips were raised from Vesta, a dirty bottomed rose tulip, and a narrow petaled feathered bizarre called Flora (*Count Villaflor*)? If so, it would appear immaterial what sort the seed is saved from.

Leeds.

S.

Pray can you inform a youthful amateur whether Princess Sophia of Gloucester and Madame Vestris rose tulips are alike? I had them from two separate dealers, and when they flowered last season, I was utterly at a loss to perceive any difference.

[Will some of our friends help us in the above matters, and give us their opinion, for the information of our correspondents?—CONDUCTOR.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. S. R.—One of the best hardy climbers is the *Glycine Sinensis*. After being established a few years its growth is very rapid. The leaves somewhat resemble those of the ash; it bears long bunches of flowers, similar to the laburnum in shape, of a most beautiful blue. It flowers early in the spring, when the leaves are just on the point of developing themselves, and occasionally it will produce an autumnal crop of blooms.

H. M.—The late John Hufton, of Shipley, Derbyshire, did not raise Lord Ranccliffe Polyanthus, which bears his name.

OMEGA.—Barnard's Mrs. Barnard is one of the best, if not superior to all other light edged picotees which we have yet seen.

W. BENTON.—Pilot is a flamed bizarre tulip; it was broken from one of Mr. Gibbons's breeders, by Mr. John Spencer, of Adbolton, near Nottingham, and was named by him. This designation has been universally adopted.

R. G.—We would recommend London gooseberry; it is one of the heaviest sorts cultivated.

SARAH.—In due time, select lists of annual flower seeds will appear. The varieties you enumerate may be procured of any respectable seedsman.

WILLIAM RUSSELL.—Your complaint is well founded. Much difference of opinion appears to exist amongst florists, on this point, and we shall be happy to publish any remarks you may please to forward, which will elucidate the matter.

T. M.—The apples sent are fine specimens of the Wollaton Pippin (as known in this neighbourhood), or more properly speaking, the *Court pendu Plat* of the French. It is, as our correspondent very justly observes, a most excellent variety.

ERIN.—We do not know, but will make inquiry.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JANUARY.

### OPERATIONS FOR THE ARTIZAN'S GARDEN.

*Rhubarb*, if required early, may be forced by putting over the roots very deep flower pots, or what is perhaps better, old chimney pots, which allows strong growing sorts, such as Myatt's Victoria, to throw up its leaves their full length. The top, of course, must be covered, and the pot surrounded with dung. The



pink, or Pontic, is very early, and forces well : smaller pots will do to cover this variety.

*Peas* should be sown in a warm border. As mice are very destructive at this season, it will be advisable to rub the peas well with rosin, or soak them in a decoction of bitter aloes, which will in some measure prevent their ravages.

*Cauliflowers*.—Plants, if the weather is very severe, should be protected ; a slight covering, such as pea haulm, put lightly over them, will be found beneficial. Lettuces may be sheltered in the same way.

*Cabbages* are best planted in autumn where they are to remain, but should the weather prove open they may be put in ; and the earth should be drawn to the stems of those planted in October, if not already done.

In mild weather, the honeysuckles, or clematis, or roses, which run over the arbours, should be pruned and nailed. The fruit trees also ought to have all cross branches removed. Gooseberries may be trimmed, and where not intended for growing prize berries, they should be well thinned in the middle, to let the fruit have the advantage of the sun and air. The shoots of black currants ought to be left long ; it is a bad practice to cut them down too much. Plums and pears intended to train as espaliers may be staked, and their shoots retained in their proper places with strong matting or leaden ties. Raspberries also ought to be staked ; cutting away the dead shoots which bore fruit during last summer, thin the stems to two or three of the strongest, and cut off the extreme points.

Should the weather prove very frosty, care must be taken to get in the supply of manure, and all pieces which are not under crop, will be the better for being dug and thrown into ridges ; not only is the action of

the frost beneficial to the land, but many insects destructive to plants, as well as their eggs, are thus destroyed.

As many of our readers may possess frames, or small greenhouses, and as we are confident such structures will most rapidly increase, not only because glass may be obtained at an extremely low rate, but because the *Polmaise* system of heating is getting better understood, so that a great deal of the expense of flues, &c. (which is a serious item in the cost of construction) will be done away with, we shall endeavour to give some brief directions every month, more particularly applicable for that class of amateurs and gardeners for which we profess to write. In the greenhouse, little can be done at this season of the year. When the plants require water, let it be done effectually; it is better to moisten the whole ball of the plant, if only once a week, than to just wet the surface two or three times during that period, because all the lower part of the pot may be excessively dry, and the plants suffering in consequence. When water is given, let it be done in the morning. Keep the plants free from dead leaves, and particularly attend to neatness and cleanliness; the health of plants depends more on this than many people imagine.

Amongst florists' flowers, auricula frames must be covered with mats every night, and in frosty weather during the day; in mild weather give all the air possible. Both these and carnations require but little water at this season of the year, but all spotted leaves should be removed from the latter, and the plants carefully cleaned, when opportunity offers.

Tulip beds had better be protected from severe frost, by coverings of mats, &c.

In frosty weather turn over soil and compost heaps, and keep a "*bright eye*" for the wire-worm.

## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## PRIZE GOOSEBERRIES.

BY THE REV. S. CRESWELL.

OBSERVING in your new and valuable publication, which I have read with much pleasure, that a correspondent calls your attention to the subject of prize gooseberries, and wishes to know whether it be true, that many are of inferior flavour, I answer, they are not necessarily so; and here I would observe, for the information of those who have no experience in gooseberry-growing, nor any knowledge of the peculiarities of the various sorts now in cultivation, that there is a considerable difference in the properties of this excellent and useful fruit; some sorts being remarkable for their heavy weight and size—such are London, Old England, Catherina, Freedom, Wonderful, and Thumper; others again are remarkable for their beauty and rich flavour—such are Magnet, Lord Middleton, China Orange, Ironsides; and others for producing large quantities. Now, in order that your correspondent may not meet with disappointment in making a good selection, which may be obtained in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, I have taken the liberty to recommend the following descriptive list of prize berries, of excellent flavour and first-rate croppers. I shall briefly describe six of each colour:—

*Companion*.—A fine rough red berry, deep colour when ripe, and round in shape.

*Magnet*.—A beautiful bright berry, light red, rough and long in shape.

*Napoleon le Grand*.—A fine light red rough berry, round in shape.

*Lord Middleton*.—A dark rough red berry, of extra flavour and roundish shape.

- Ironsides*.—Pale rough red, fine flavour, middling length.  
*Highlander*.—A fine early rough red, globular shape.  
*Gunner*.—A dark rough yellow berry, round in shape.  
*Peru*.—A fine clear pale yellow, smooth and long.  
*Dublin*.—A rough pale yellow, round in shape.  
*Teazer*.—A pale yellow berry, smooth and round.  
*Broom Girl*.—A fine yellow berry, rather rough, and round.  
*China Orange*.—A fine early sort, beautiful yellow, smooth and round.  
*Overall*.—A good early sort, dark green, smooth and round.  
*Turnout*.—Similar in description to Overall, but not quite so early.  
*Victoria*.—A fine dark green berry, smooth and round.  
*Green Prince*.—A pale green berry, smooth and round.  
*Great Britain*.—A smooth dark green berry, long in shape.  
*Keepsake*.—A smooth and very pale green berry, almost a white, roundish in shape.  
*Freedom*.—A splendid white berry, smooth and long.  
*Tally-ho*.—A smooth long white berry.  
*Queen of Trumps*.—A fine white berry, smooth and long.  
*Miss Walton*.—A fine round smooth white berry.  
*Beeswing*.—A smooth long white berry.  
*Snowball*.—A splendid white rough berry, round shape.

The above sorts are good croppers and first-rate dessert berries.

The following are fine croppers and of large size, but deficient in flavour, viz.:—Thumper, Echo, Guido, Atlas, Pilot, Shuttle, Eagle, White Swan, and Coppice Lass.

Having now, I trust, placed Mr. Evans and your correspondent Ribes in a position to select a fine collection of gooseberry trees, I shall take the liberty, with your kind permission, of recommending a choice list of first-rate sorts to the notice of the young amateur prize gooseberry grower. I shall confine myself to six varieties of each colour, which I think will be amply sufficient to commence with, viz.:—

**RED**.—London, Wonderful, Old England, Companion, Magnet, Lumper.

**YELLOW**.—Catherina, Drill, Railway, Lord Rancliffe, Goldfinder, Leader.

**GREEN**.—Thumper, Turn-out, Ince Pet, Queen Victoria, Green Wonderful, Green Snake.

**WHITE**.—Freedom, Flora, Snowdrop, Coppice Lass, Lady Stanley, Lady Leicester.

*Radford Vicarage, January 7, 1847.*

## ON THE NAMES OF FLOWERS.

BY J. T. H.

BELIEVING that you are desirous to dedicate your pages not merely to the gratification of the scientific florist, but to the profit and improvement of the novitiate in gardening, I am desirous to point out an evil which, to the latter class is by no means unimportant; leaving it to others to apply the remedy and point out "the more excellent way." I allude to the nomenclature of flowers. For some years it has been my lot to prepare for and transmit to the local newspapers accounts of floral exhibitions in this and other villages, and in most cases I have not only been unable to decipher the names, but the parties supplying the subjects have been utterly unable to give any assistance.

The system of Linnæus is now pronounced by Dr. Lindley and many others of our great European florists, to be nothing more than a "splendid error" interwoven with names, and will probably in its turn be utterly exploded. The foolish ambition of commemorating an individual or an event by the baptism of a flower, or the still more fatal error of desiring to display a little knowledge of latinity, has led to many gross and ridiculous results. Faulty in diction as well as pronunciation, the present vocabulary of flowers has exposed the less informed florist to egregious blunders; and it is impossible to take up any account of our rural exhibitions without perceiving that this evil exists to a very great extent. Classifications and names must exist, but let the latter be simple and unaffected, and do not let our eyes and ears be constantly offended by a catalogue of absurdities defying alike the art of spelling and the powers of pronunciation.

*Beeston, January, 1847.*

[We are quite aware, with our correspondent, that the evil complained of exists to a great degree; but we cannot conceive how it is to be remedied; for amidst the multiplicity of seed-

lings constantly raised it requires some specific designation to distinguish each variety. That singular and often inappropriate names are given, our floral and gooseberry lists abundantly testify, but we by no means think that the first designators spell the names wrong. Generally speaking they apply to a book or newspaper for the title of the hero or heroine which they attach to their flower; and parties moving in a humble sphere of life, many perhaps with limited educations, usually spell the names as *they sound*: hence the singular designations which so often come under the notice of our correspondent. We doubt not, however, that as knowledge increases, these things will be remedied; and we can now only suggest that the plan of the Horticultural Society of London be adopted, namely—Giving a prize for the best spelt names of each collection.—CONDUCTOR.]

### SEEDLING RANUNCULUSES.

THE following is a descriptive list of some seedling ranunculuses, raised by Mr. George Lightbody, of Falkirk, and communicated by him; and as planting time will shortly be here, we hasten to lay it before our readers. One of the most successful cultivators of this tribe of plants gives the following pithy advice, which we are sure may be safely followed:—"Ranunculuses should be planted in a rich loamy soil, in which there is no fresh manure, in February or early in March, an inch and a half deep, four inches apart in the rows, and the rows six inches asunder. Take them up when the foliage is decayed.

*Sir John de Græme*.—A flower of large size and splendid form a fine purple edge and cream ground; one of the fines varieties in being.

*Talisman*.—An exquisitely beautiful flower, fine purple edge, upon a pure white ground.

*Richard Dixon*.—A heavy purple edge, excellent form, ground of a clear white, a very large and massive flower, newly raised, and a very free bloomer.

*Dr. Horner*.—A splendid flower, of fine form; the petals are of great substance, and edged with purple.

*General Robertson*.—Remarkably double flower, distinctly marked with fine dark crimson upon a creamy ground.

*James Montgomery*.—A very dark purple edge, form first-rate, creamy ground.

*Larne*.—Of very fine form, a purple mottle upon a white ground.

*Chimpanzee*.—A very large and full flower, deep rose edge, on a clear white ground.

*Annot Lyle*.—A very distinct rose edge, of beautiful form, and clear white ground.

*Lady Sale*.—A rose spot, of splendid form, very distinctly marked.

*Zebina*.—An exquisite flower, beautifully marked, a rose spot, upon a white ground.

*Nereus*.—A flower of extraordinary size, very full, and delicately marked, a light rose spot, upon a snowy white ground; this is one of the finest ever raised.

*Commodore Napier*.—A very large and full flower, free bloomer, deep red edge, upon a clear straw ground.

*Constantia*.—A flower of very fine form, a red edge, on a rich yellow.

*Prince Albert*.—A very large and double flower, a dark brown edge, upon a clear straw ground.

*Princess Royal*.—A beautiful variety, dark edge, upon a brilliant yellow ground.

*Colonel Dennie*.—Rich yellow ground, edged with deep red, perfect shape.

*Queen Berengaria*.—A beautifully formed flower, rose mottled, upon a white ground; an exquisite variety.



## ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE AURICULA.

BY MR. J. STATON, FLORIST, RUDDINGTON, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.

[Continued from page 13.]

I COMMENCE repotting in *August*, and the pots used are termed quarts. I put plenty of drainage into them, and place a thin piece of dry turf over it; this will prevent the soil from falling to the bottom of the pots and thereby allow the superfluous water to escape freely. The plant, when turned out of the pot, must have the greater part of the old soil shaken from it, so that the roots may be examined; should any part thereof be decayed, it should be removed with the thumb nail, which is far preferable to the knife; split off the increase large enough to remove, and expose

the wounds to the sun, a few minutes, to dry, and strew a small quantity of dust over them. Put the plant in the pot, and fill up with the fresh compost; press the soil gently round the sides of the pot, and place it in the frame; give no water for two or three days, but shade with a garden mat; after which time water very moderately round the sides of the pot, but do not allow any to fall near the plant. Turn the frame to a northern aspect.

Pot off the increase, and treat them in the same manner as the parent plants. Continue to water during this month every other day, but in small quantities, and always by the side of the pot, as before directed.

In *September*, turn the frames to an easterly aspect, water very sparingly, every third day will be sufficient, should the weather prove cool and cloudy, if hot and dry, more frequently; remove all decayed leaves, but do not tear any away from the plant before they part with ease, or great risks are run of injuring the root stem.

*October*.—The frame should now be turned to a south-eastern aspect, water still more sparingly, twice a week will at this season be sufficient. The shutters at the back of the frame may now be continually open, and the sashes tilted in the front, so that a free current of air may pass through, which will preserve the plants from damp.

In *November* and *December*, once a week will be sufficient to supply them with water, for being now in a dormant state, the plants should be kept tolerably dry. Give all the air possible, during fine weather. Close the frame at night, and cover with mats. Should any wet drip from the glass into the hearts of the plants, blow it out immediately; never mind the inconvenience you may be put to, by having your lips blistered by the venomous matter which the foliage of this plant discharges (?); for if the wet be allowed to remain, it will most certainly destroy them. The frame should now be turned full south.



*January.*—The latter end of this month water may be given, as the plants will now begin to make new foliage; invariably water round the sides of the pot, and give all the air possible in mild weather; cover at night with mats.

*February.*—Towards the latter end of this month is the time for top dressing; but this system I have abandoned, as I feel confident many good blooms have been injured by it. Give air, and cover as before.

*March.*—The beginning of this month, I put two buckets of rain water and about a peck of sheep dung, two months old, into a tub; with this I make a liquid manure. To the strong growing kinds, such as Lightbody's Star of Bethlehem, I give about one-third of a pint; after allowing a week to elapse, the dose is repeated. To the weaker varieties, such as Cheetham's Countess of Wilton, I apply the same quantity twice during the seven days, for several successive weeks. This I believe to be far preferable to the old system of top dressing; for I hesitate not to say, that in consequence of removing the soil from the top of the pots, many of the fibres are broken and the plants materially injured, more so in many instances than benefitted by the fresh compost. Water may now be given more freely, and the frame remain fronting the south. Give air during mild weather, but close your frame against cold winds; cover at night as usual, as the neglect of this on a frosty night may blight all your hopes.

*April.*—As the flowers will now begin to expand, water may be given in small quantities every day, but great care must be taken not to allow any wet to fall upon the blooms, for this would undoubtedly spoil them for exhibition. Should the flowers be too forward, the frame may be turned to an easterly aspect. Give all the air possible, or the flower stems will be drawn up weak, and the blooms trumpet-shaped. Do not forget to shade during the middle of the day; and should it be desirable to raise seedlings of first-rate

character, the cross-impregnation of the best varieties must not be omitted. This may be performed by taking the farina from the stamens of one sort, with a small camel-hair brush, and applying it to the pointal (or pistil) of another variety.

*May.*—Turn the frame to a northerly aspect, give all the air possible, and continue to water freely. Should the plants at this season be attacked by that pest the green-fly, get a small painter's brush, and sweep it round the hearts of the plants; the fly will adhere to the brush, and may in this way be easily removed. A frame of plants may be cleaned in ten minutes in this manner, which is preferable to fumi-gating with tobacco.

*June and July.*—Many growers, during these months, take the plants from the frame, and place them in a shady situation: this system I also condemn, for although at this time of the year evaporation is very great, yet some of the tender kinds, such as Leigh's Colonel and Booth's Freedom, get so injured with the wet standing in their hearts, that the following September they fall a prey to what many florists term the black rot, which is in fact occasioned by nothing more or less than the plants being exposed to the heavy rains which frequently fall in these months. Besides the seed is ripened much better when preserved from the wet than when exposed to it. I never remove my plants from the frame at any season, but in mild weather give all the air possible; and in the hot summer months, a few branches of trees spread over the frames, prevent the powerful rays of the sun from scorching the plants. I can safely say that I have not lost a single plant since I have adopted the treatment just described, and therefore strongly recommend it, as being calculated to ensure fine blooms and healthy plants; in fact, mine are now remarkably fine and healthy, and the increase is truly astonishing. One of my stock plants of Page's Champion has on it at this time no less than six offsets,

Ne plus ultra and Nonsuch have five, Cheetham's Lancashire Hero and Countess of Wilton four, and Colonel Taylor and Booth's Freedom three each.

Before concluding, I will give eight varieties in each class, suitable for exhibition:—

**GREEN-EDGED.**—Booth's Freedom, Leigh's Colonel Taylor, Lightbody's Star of Bethlehem, Oliver's Lovely Ann, Leighton's Imperator, Page's Champion, Warris's Blucher, Hepworth's Robin Hood.

**GREY-EDGED.**—Cheetham's Lancashire Hero, Fletcher's Ne plus ultra, Waterhouse's Conqueror of Europe, Warris's Union, Kenyon's Ringleader, Taylor's Ploughboy, Thompson's Revenge, Kent's Victoria,

**WHITE-EDGED.**—Lightbody's Fair Flora, Lightbody's Fair Maid, Cheetham's Countess of Wilton, Popplewell's Conqueror, Lee's Bright Venus, Hepworth's True Briton, Tomlinson's Lord of Hallamshire, Taylor's Glory.

**SELFS.**—Netherwood's Othello, Barker's Nonsuch, Kay's Jupiter, Berry's Lord Primate, Whittaker's True Blue, Redman's Metropolitan, Grimes's Flora's Flag, Smith's Mrs. Smith.

**ALPINES.**—True Blue, Village Maid, Victoria, Lovely Ann, Favourite, Fair Rosamond, Fair Phillis, Robin Hood.

I do not mean to say that these are all the auriculas grown that are certain winners, for there are many more sterling and first-rate varieties; but the above flowers will be found sufficient, if well managed, to ensure the principal prizes, at an exhibition, in their respective classes.

With a few hints on seedlings I will conclude. My seed is generally ripe the first week in August; I then gather and expose it to the sun for a few days, in a small muslin bag. When dry, I get one of my boxes, into which I put plenty of drainage. It is then filled with the same description of soil used for the plants, and I form the soil into small ridges, an inch and a half asunder; with the edge of a penny-piece I make a small drill down the centre of each, in these drills the seed is sown, and slightly covered, after which the ridges are gently pressed with a piece of board. The advantage of this mode is great; for when the young plants appear, which will be in about

three weeks, they may be watered between the ridges, without allowing any wet to fall upon them, which would destroy many of the tender and most likely the best varieties.

The box must be placed in a cold frame, and the seedlings may be treated in a similar manner to the established plants. Many recommend sowing the seed in February, I prefer August; for I am certain more seeds will vegetate, and they will be a year in advance of those sown in the spring.

In August, 1845, I gathered a large quantity of seed, from all my best varieties; it was sown on the 12th of that month, and the result is, that I have more than a thousand plants which will bloom this spring; two have already flowered, and are very promising, and from the others I confidently anticipate some splendid flowers.

Should the preceding remarks be deemed worthy of a place in the *Midland Florist*, I will follow them up with communications on the culture of other florists' flowers.



## DESCRIPTIVE LIST

### OF A PORTION

### OF THE CHELLASTON SEEDLING TULIPS.

[Continued from page 10.]

- No. 30.—*Mr. Jos. Strutt*. Fine dark flamed bybloemen, good form, much in the style of Grace Darling. Broke in 1844, from No. 40 breeder.
- No. 31.—*Maid of Athens*. A superior feathered bybloemen, good form, pure in the cup; supposed to break from the No. 77 breeder.
- No. 34.—*Black Diamond*. An extremely dark flamed bybloemen, rather longer than half a circle. Broke in 1845. Breeder not ascertained.
- No. 38.—*Lady Warren*. Feathered bybloemen, short cup, and clean. Rectified in 1844. Breeder not yet found.

- No. 41.—*Merit*. Fine feathered bizarre, colour of Sir S. Smith or Magnum Bonum, but with shorter cup, very pure. Broken into colour in 1840. The breeder is not yet ascertained.
- No. 42.—*Scarlet le Grand*. A splendid flamed rose, marked in the style of Unique, and, like it, slightly stained, but superior to that flower both in form and intensity of colour.
- No. 44.—A fine fourth row feathered rose, of superior form and pure base. Broke in 1840, from an undiscovered breeder.
- No. 47.—*Pilot*. Flamed Bizarre, somewhat in the style of Captain White; the cup is equally fine, of excellent form, and steady in its markings. Broke in 1840.
- No. 48.—*Competitor*. This is an extremely steady feathered bizarre, of very good shape, but with the sad drawback of a slight stain at the bottom of the stamens; in some soils and situations, however, this defect is scarcely discernible. The breeder is not yet ascertained. Broken into colour in 1840.
- No. 49.—*Britannia*. A most superb feathered bybloemen, and when in its proper character, a first-rate flower. Breaks from No. 20 breeder, from which Admiral also breaks. Extremely pure cup, and of excellent form, the feathering nearly black. Broke first into colour in 1842, and is considered a steady flower.
- No. 50.—*Lady Stanley*. Flamed rose, of superior form and colour, generally comes heavily beamed, the cup is quite pure. Broke first into colour in 1842.
- No. 56.—*Lord Vernon*. This was rectified the same season as the preceding variety, and is a flamed bybloemen, of an extremely steady habit; the ground colour is also very pure, with an unstained cup of good form, well marked with very dark violet.
- No. 57.—*Countess of Harrington*. This is a beautiful flower, with a clear Catafalque shaped cup, very steady in its markings, being finely flamed with bright violet. Broke from the breeder in 1843.

[To be continued.]

## CRITICISM ON THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

BY A SOUTHERN FLORIST.

WE in the south welcome the first number of the *Midland Florist*, but there are a few spots upon its fair face, which we should like to see removed. We readily admit that there are many good florists who

are not good authors. We hope we are not fastidious, but we do feel objections to certain phrases used by the northern florists. Permit me to point them out, and to suggest improvements. In speaking of a tulip, one of your correspondents says "it is a good *stage* flower." We know nothing of *stages* in the south, we show upon tables; we prefer saying, it is a good *show* flower, that is, it is sufficiently perfect for public exhibition. One of your correspondents says, "Lady of the Lake is a correct *marker*." This is not good English, a marker is *active*, but the tulip is *passive*; better say it is *well marked*. Of pinks, H. S. M. says, "a confused mass of small *strap-shaped* petals." This phrase is not intelligible, for there are *straps* of various shapes and sizes. We suppose he meant long *narrow* petals; then why not say so in plain English. Mr. J. Staton, speaking of soil, or compost, says, "about half a peck of *stick* ashes;" *wood* ashes would be more proper. It is highly desirable that a work like the *Midland Florist* should be correct in its descriptions of flowers, soils, &c.; and I think you have authority to correct these provincialisms, and your correspondents would also be ready to tender you their thanks.

[We shall be at all times happy to receive the criticisms of our friends, as it is our sincere wish to make the *Midland Florist* *useful*, in the fullest sense of the word. We are glad, however, to find, that the defects noticed by "A Southern Florist," are of no greater magnitude than a few provincialisms. We do not like the idea of altering the words of our correspondents, as we would rather each should impart his information in *his own way*,—but *this, we can do*—should any occur in future, we can give an explanatory word or synonyme in a parenthesis; which we think will meet the case. It may so happen that the terms used by southern florists may be as ambiguous to us; but at all events, we shall be but too happy, to hear of their new flowers, modes of cultivation, &c., &c., even if they are shrouded in a *queer word* or two, for one moment to withhold them a hearty welcome. We trust however that the criticism of our southern friend will prove a good *cosmetic*, and effectually remove the spots he alludes to.—CONDUCTOR.]

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**EARLY AND HARDY GRAPE VINES.**—The past season of 1846 was remarkably favourable for the grape; and though in the midland counties we cannot expect to be so fortunate as our more southern friends, still much may be done by a good selection of varieties for the open wall, combined with a proper system of management. Mr. Hoare's work on the cultivation of the vine contains much valuable information, and we purpose making occasional extracts. We now subjoin the names of a few new varieties, which will be found worthy of notice:—

<i>August Muscat</i> , a very early black grape.	<i>Hatif de Jura</i> , black.
<i>Chasselas musqué</i> white.	<i>Muscat of Fontainbleau</i> , black.
	<i>Mignonne</i> , white cluster.

**CHAPMAN'S PRINCE OF WALES PLUM.**—This plum was raised at Brentford End, in 1830, and is a seedling from the Orleans, but is quite distinct from that variety. It is larger, of a different shape, being inclined to be oval, different in colour, which is a bright purplish pink, with much more bloom, and the flavour is much superior. The flesh is yellowish or pale amber, and parts from the stone. Unlike the Orleans, it never cracks, and the shoots differ from those of that variety in being smooth, whereas in the Orleans they are downy. The leaves are broad, roundish, and easily distinguishable from those of any other plum. The trees are of vigorous growth. Upon

stocks planted in the spring of 1844, and budded in August following, are this year shoots upwards of eight feet in height. The bloom is protected by the foliage in a most remarkable manner, and it has a peculiar habit of spurring all up the branches. Trees of this variety, three years old, have been covered with plums as thickly as they could be placed, at three feet up the stem, so that it has been necessary to fasten the branches up with stakes to prevent them breaking down. It bears well on suckers from the mother plant.—*Horticultural Magazine*.

**ICKWORTH IMPERATRICE PLUM.**—This excellent variety is somewhat larger than the old Imperatrice, of a purple colour, beautifully traced with a profusion of golden brown lines. The flesh is rich, and the fruit possesses the property of keeping long fresh, and ultimately becoming like a prune, when placed in a dry situation.

**FINE LATE PEACH.—THE WALBERTON ADMIRABLE.**—It is a seedling from the Noblesse, which it much resembles in size, flavour, and colour; it differs however from its parent in ripening at least a month or five weeks later in the season. The tree is of free, strong growth, and very hardy; the fruit of large size, melting, and of excellent flavour. It was originated at Walberton House, Sussex, the seat of R. Prime, Esq.

**THE STURMER PIPPIN.**—So valuable an apple as the Sturmer Pippin should be in every garden. Its property of keeping good till August, retaining till so late a period its brisk flavour, both for kitchen and dessert use, and being one of the very best of bearers, may be alone for it ample recommendation. This apple has lately been introduced to public notice by Messrs. S. and J. Dillistone, of the Sturmer Nurseries, near Halstead, Essex; who have obligingly supplied us with the history of the tree, which has so deservedly



received their attention. Their father, it appears, resided at the rectory, at Sturmer, about the year 1800; and observing a fine apple of the Ribstone Pippin hanging on a branch amongst those of an Old Nonpareil, he conceived that the flowers might possibly have been inoculated, as it was then usually termed, by the bees. He gathered the fruit, planted its seeds, and one tree from them grew to perfection, continuing on the spot on which he sowed it, in the rectory garden, where it now stands, a healthy, handsome, far-spreading tree. Some apples are nearly free from russet, whilst it is scattered irregularly over others. Its stem is short and deeply inserted, its exposed side deeply coloured with dull red, and the form of the fruit is altogether handsome. Its flesh is greenish white, and crisp; and to the pleasant admixture of acid with an agreeable sweetness, it owes its value as a kitchen fruit. As a dessert apple, however, some persons may think it too sharp—a quality which others would highly esteem; for even at the present season it possesses the brisk flavour of fruit fresh gathered from the tree. Under all considerations, perhaps no apple in cultivation possesses so many good qualities.—*Maund's Botanic Garden.*

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## TREES AND SHRUBS.

**DEUTZIA STAMINEA.**—It is stated by Dr. Wallich that this plant grows on the highest mountains of the great valley of Nepal, and in the province of Kamaon. The flowers are pure white, something like those of the hawthorn, in terminal corymbose panicles. It is a small hardy shrub, growing well in the common garden soil, and easily increased by cuttings of the half-ripened slender wood; is very pretty, and flowers freely in May. It was raised in 1841, from seed from the Himalayas, presented by the East India Company.—*Horticultural Society's Journal.*

**RHODODENDRON ENNEANDRIUM.** (*Hybrid Rhododendron*.)—Class, *Decandria*; order, *Menogynia*; natural order, *Rhodoraceæ*.—Rhododendron, compounded of rhodon, dendron, a rose or beautiful flower, and a tree. The Greek word rhodon, in the sense of a beautiful flower, is well deserved by its splendid genus of shrubs. This is a beautiful and free-flowering plant, partaking more of the character of azalea than rhododendron; and with an anomalous number of stamens, as if it had been exalted from amongst the azaleas, which have five stamens, but had not quite reached the character of rhododendron with ten stamens. It is a hybrid, raised, we believe, by the Very Reverend the Dean of Manchester, some years ago, at Spofforth; and is nearly related to another of his seedlings, called hybridum, in the *Bot. Reg.* 195. Its flowers have a somewhat pleasant fragrance, and the plant is quite hardy, but it rarely ripens seeds. It may be easily propagated by layering, a mode of increase but little resorted to by amateurs, although so simple. It requires only that the branches be pegged beneath the soil, in spring, leaving only the points of the shoots above ground.

**RHODODENDRON GUTTATUM.**—It is scarcely possible to say, among the multitude of hybrid rhododendrons, which are the most entitled to regard. Where, however, the white-flowering kinds are desired, we have not met with any to surpass the one above-named, and only a single variety (*R. multimaclatum*) which can be compared with it. The chief defect in many hybrids of this genus is the lack of a due quantity of spots to create a pleasing contrast. In both the varieties we have here noticed, the spotting is particularly distinct; that in *R. multimaclatum* being more aggregated, and occasionally running together in blotches, while in *R. guttatum* the individual spots are so clear that they might easily be counted. Both are, we believe, thoroughly hardy; and both are admirably adapted for ornamental purposes.—*Paxton*.

The following trees and shrubs have been originated from seed, by Mr. F. Fox, nurseryman, of the Cliff Vale Nurseries, near Leek, Staffordshire:—

**FAGUS SYLVATICA VAR MACROPHYLLA.**—This variety of the common beech has remarkably stiff and erect shoots, with very large leaves, and is highly ornamental.

**FAGUS SYLVATICA VAR PURPUREA.** (*The purple leaved common Beech.*)—This beautiful tree differs from the common purple beech by retaining its leaves through the winter, which are also more round than the old variety; it is also remarkable for the extreme slenderness of its branches.

**PYRUS AUCUPARIA VARIEGATA.** (*The blotched-leaved Mountain Ash.*)—We have seen a few variegations of the mountain ash, which have had a sickly diseased appearance, but this is extremely well marked and distinct.

**QUERCUS ROBUR VARIEGATA.** (*The English Oak.*)—The leaves are beautifully variegated with white.

**ULEX EUROPEUS.** (*Common Gorse.*)—This, instead of the deep golden yellow flowers of the species, has blooms of a clear canary colour; the plant has also a very upright habit.

**MENZIESIA POLYFOLIA.**—This has double flowers, but is regarded more as a curiosity than esteemed for its beauty.

The following three varieties of common yew (*Taxus baccata*), will be esteemed by cultivators of singular growing and variegated evergreens:—A distinctly silver-striped yew; also one with each leaf longitudinally marked with deep yellow; and a variety extremely dwarfish in its growth, in fact, quite a pigmy.

## HERBACEOUS PLANTS AND BULBS.

**PEONIA WHITMANNIA.** (*Whitman's Peony*).—This is a single flowered variety, a native of Siberia. The flowers are large, and of a beautiful bright yellow. The introduction of this plant will doubtless be the means of producing some splendid hybrids. We understand it is yet expensive.

**POTENTILLA M'NABIANA.** (*Mr. Mac Nab's*).—This is an hybrid, raised between the *Potentillas atrosanguinea* and *leuchrocora*. It blooms very freely; each blossom a little more than an inch across, of a bright scarlet, with an orange centre. A very pretty variety.—*Pax. Mag. Bot.*

**POTENTILLA ATROSANGUINEA MENZIESII.**—This beautiful plant bears flowers of a very large size, brilliant orange scarlet, the under side of the petals being bright yellow.

**POTENTILLA FORMOSA BAINESIANA.**—The flowers are bright scarlet on the upper surface of their petals, which contrasts in a most pleasing manner with the under side, which are also bright yellow.

**SEDUM KAMTSCHATICUM.**—A handsome herbaceous plant, with bright yellow flowers. It is a hardy perennial, requiring a light soil and dry situation, and proves to be a fine showy plant for rockwork, where it blooms freely, and remains long in succession. Received from Dr. Fischer, in June, 1844, by the London Horticultural Society, and said to have been collected by Dr. Schrenk, on the Chinese limits of the south of Soongaria.

**PHLOX VAN HOUTTEI.** (*Van Houtte's Phlox*).—This variety has now been introduced several years, from the nursery (Ghent, Belgium) belonging to the enthusiastic cultivator whose name it bears, and we

now mention it, because we are sure that our readers, who are fond of this showy tribe of plants, will thank us for introducing it to their notice. It is of strong habit, reaching in favourable situations at least three feet, bearing a profusion of flowers, pinkish white ground, distinctly striped with reddish purple; the individual flowers are not so large as some others, but it is a striking and well marked variety, and will, we make no doubt, become a general favourite. We obtained from Mr. Harrison, of Downham, (who possesses a first-rate collection) several sorts more or less distinguished for their good shape and contrast of colours. Amongst these we may mention Eyebright, purplish lilac, with dark centre; Captivation, white, with rosy eye; and Speciosissima superba, bright rosy pink, with white centre. As striped sorts, Alcardii is showy and good, with deep crimson flowers, occasionally striped with white; Bicolor has white flowers, striped with lilac; and Princess Marianne is much in the same style. As these flowers bear seed profusely, we would advise our readers to try what they can do in the way of originating fresh varieties.

**IXIDIRION MONTANUM.** (*Mountain Ixio Lily.*)—This is a hardy bulbous plant, blooming most beautifully in early spring. The flowers are produced in umbels of six or eight; each flower is composed of six petals, of a rich shining blue.

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### GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**THE GARDENIA FLORIDA** (better known to most cultivators of tender plants as the *Cape Jasmine*), both single and double varieties, are highly fragrant. A fine addition has lately been made by the introduction from China of the **GARDENIA FLORIDA FORTUNIANA**. The flowers are double, four inches across, pure white, and not unlike a very large double

**camellia.** In the Journal of the Horticultural Society it is said to be one of the very finest shrubs in cultivation, ranking with the double white camellia, which it equals in the beauty of the flowers and leaves, and infinitely excels in its delicious odour.

**ABUTILON STRIATUM.**—Among the many, and in some instances very beautiful additions made to our catalogue of plants, within the last few years, the *Abutilon striatum* is certainly destined to maintain a high place. It is a native of the southern part of Brazil, having been found on the Organ Mountains, by Mr. Gardiner, and also near the Rio Negro, on the Banda Oriental, by Mr. Tweedie. As it is now becoming pretty well known, and will, doubtless, be in the hands of many, I am induced to offer a few remarks on the culture, having grown it with considerable success. Cuttings of young wood, taken off when about three inches in length, will strike readily in a mixture of sand and peat, or leaf mould, covered with a glass, and plunged in a little bottom heat. When the cuttings are struck, which may be known by their beginning to grow, pot them off into small pots (sixties), using a mixture of peat and leaf mould in about equal parts, with a little sand; let them remain in a gentle hot bed, or some warm place, for a week or ten days, watering them gently, as they may require; then remove them to the greenhouse, and as soon as the roots have filled the pots, shift them into a size larger, with the same compost, adding a little loam, which should be increased at each shifting, until they are placed in large pots; by which time they will be at least four or five feet high, if attended to, and bearing a profusion of bloom, which, from its pendulous habit amid the ample foliage, is extremely beautiful. As the season advances, they may be removed out of doors with the other plants, where they will continue to flower the whole of the summer. In the autumn they should be repotted with the other plants, cutting off the matted roots, and filling up

with good fresh earth, in the same proportions as before, and placed in the stove, where they will still continue to bloom: thus amply repaying the trouble and attention bestowed on them, by a continued succession of curious and very handsome flowers.—*R. Plant, in Flor. Jour.*

**ADAMIA VERSICOLOR.**—A fine bush, with much the appearance of *Hydrangea japonica*, so far as the foliage is concerned. The flowers, however, are quite different. They form a pyramidal panicle, nearly a foot in diameter, and when expanded, are of the most brilliant violet blue; when in bud, they are at first white, but gradually change to purple and violet, until their full expansion, when they measure nearly an inch in diameter. The petals are seven, or occasionally six in number, and form a seven or six-pointed star. It is easily grown in any good soil, and requires such treatment as is generally given to *hydrangeas* and similar plants, but it will be less hardy than they are and will consequently require the protection of a greenhouse. It is readily increased by cuttings, in the usual manner. The habit of the plant is good, and the fine large panicle of blue flowers which it bears gives it a very ornamental appearance. Moreover, if it should fruit in this country, its fine blue berries will be as pretty as its flowers. The above plant was found by Mr. Fortune, on the island of Hong Kong, growing in ravines, halfway up the mountains.—*Journal of Horticultural Society.*

**RUSSELIA JUNCRA.** (*Rushy Russelia.*)—The species as yet known to belong to this small genus are herbaceous or shrubby plants, natives of the Antilles and of Mexico. The present species is the produce of Mexico; and few plants introduced of late years surpass it in the beauty of the flowers, or the delicacy, grace, and singularity of its branches. The elegant green pendulous branches, terminated by the rich crimson flowers, at once charm the eye and excite an

interest by causing us to consider how such thread-like organs, and the minute leaves attached to them, can accomplish the elaboration of sufficient sap to nourish and perfect the fruit with its multitude of seeds. This is the more remarkable when we reflect that in the same country grows the *Agave Mexicana*, with its large, thick, and enduring leaves, which need several years, before they can elaborate sufficient sap to enable it to elevate its flower stem with its countless flowers. Sent from Mexico by Count Carwinski, to Berlin and Munich, whence it was introduced into Britain, in 1833. It requires the protection of the greenhouse, and flourishes well in any light rich soil. It is easily propagated by cuttings. It flowers freely in July and August.



## HALF HARDY PLANTS,

SUITABLE FOR BORDER CULTURE OR FOR MASSES.

**TROPEOLUM MINUS.** (*Small Flowered Nasturtian, or Indian Cress.*)—The flowers are double, and produced very abundantly; they are of a beautiful orange scarlet. It is excellent for planting in beds, and is also well suited for rockwork.

**SCUTELLARIA VENTENATI.** (*Ventenat's Skull Cap.*)—Belongs to the natural order *Labiatae*. A perennial herbaceous plant, with erect stems, two feet high; the flowers are produced in long terminal racemes, each blossom is an inch long, in the form of a tube, with a large capped end. They are of a rich deep scarlet, very bright and showy. It is expected to make a splendid ornament for the flower garden, during summer.

**SALVIA CAMERTONII.** (*Camerton's Sage.*)—*Labiatae*. This is said to be a very distinct and handsome kind,



with bright crimson flowers, almost as vivid as *Salvia fulgens*. It is of compact habit, and well adapted for bedding out. It is grown by Mr. Harrison, of Downham.

## VEGETABLES.

**NEW MAMMOTH BROCOLI.**—Weight from eight or twelve pounds, perfectly hardy, dwarf growth, of delicate colour and firm texture, coming into use very late in the season. It is described as each head forming numerous, yet close, divisions; so that one head may be cut into eight or ten separate portions, each forming apparently a perfect head, as large as an ordinary brocoli; and is sufficient for a week's liberal supply (*for one person we presume*), and that of first-rate excellence. The above is also known as *Ellotson's Superb April White Brocoli*.

**SNOW'S SUPERB WHITE WINTER BROCOLI.**—This was obtained from Mr. Glendinning, nurseryman, Turnham Green. It is a dwarf variety, with broad leaves and short petioles. The head is large, very compact, and as white as a cauliflower. If sown in the beginning of May, it comes into use in November; and three successional sowings, at intervals of a fortnight, will give a winter supply.

**WILLCOVE BROCOLI.**—The name of this variety is derived from a little village on the western side of the Tamar, about a mile from Devonport, which has been proverbial for the last thirty years as producing the latest brocoli. This sort is brought to market when all others are gone out, and immediately before the cauliflowers make their appearance.

**COUVE TRONCHOUDA.** (*Portugal or Braganza Cabbage*.)—This is described as a most excellent vegetable, though too tender to withstand the severity of

our winters. The leaves have extremely thick ribs, which may be cooked in the way of asparagus or sea kale, and are very delicate and tender.

**NEW PEA.—FAIRBEARD'S CHAMPION OF ENGLAND.**—The description given by one of the most respectable seedsmen in the trade is, that under the usual system of management, this variety will attain the height of four feet. It is of very superior flavour, of large size (being a marrow pea), added to very great productiveness.

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## ANNUALS.

**COCHELERIA ACAULIS.** (*Stemless Scurvygrass.*)—A beautiful rock plant, for shady situations: its flowers of a clear lilac, and the foilage of a delicate green colour. It is a hardy little annual, growing in any rich garden soil, and blooming from April to October. Found wild on the basaltic hills near Lisbon, and occasionally on the limestone formation of Estremadura. Received by the London Horticultural Society, in March, 1845, from the Duc de Palmella, Lisbon.

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**NEW GARDEN PLANT.**—The crimson and yellow Vanda, an orchid, from the Phillippine Islands, first flowered in England, in June and July last, is thus described in the *Gardener's Chronicle*:—It is a very large erect plant, with remarkably thick, aerial roots, sword-shaped curved two-ranked hard leaves averaging two feet in length, and a still longer spike of some score of flowers, each full two inches and a half across, flat, leathery, and long enduring. But it is not alone for their size that these flowers are worthy of notice. Their colour is indescribably beautiful. If you look at them in face, they are the richest golden yellow, spotted all over with crimson; but when seen from behind, they are wholly a vivid purple, fading away at the edges into violet.

## Part III.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## GARDEN CULTURE OF THE MUSHROOM.

IN the Journal of the London Horticultural Society is the following description of Mr. Prestoe's (nurseryman, of Shirley) method of producing mushrooms, fine specimens of which were exhibited April 15th, 1845:—In the first week in August, a quantity of fresh stable manure was collected and dried; a trench, two feet in width, one foot in depth, and twelve feet in length, was dug in the driest part of the nursery (running north and south). The dried dung was then put in, and trodden firmly down, and cakes of Mr. Prestoe's improved mushroom spawn were planted one foot distant from each other. The mould which had previously been thrown on the side, was laid on the bed, and firmly beaten with the spade. Thus the bed was formed and completed in one day. Common burdles were covered with straw and set over the bed, in the form of the roof of a house; the whole remained for about six weeks in the same state. Afterwards a gentle watering was given, and the mushrooms began to make their appearance on the 1st of October, when 122 specimens were produced, fit for table. The bed continued to bear two or three months longer. As the thermometer began to sink below 40°, the ends of the roofed covering were closed, and about three inches of straw was laid over the bed. As the winter advanced another covering of litter was laid on, which was all that was done to it. The crop was extraordinary.

RAISING POTATOES FROM SEED.—A correspondent has called our attention to an important communication from Mr. J. D. Peters, in the *Hamburgh Correspondent*. Mr. Peters' statements have been confirmed

by the certificate of Dr. Loeser, of Gustrow. The potato disease, says Mr. Peters, not only affects us, but nearly the whole of Europe is suffering from it, and, since it is impossible to know what may be the result of this epidemic, it is to be feared that a succession of these attacks may prove more and more fatal, till at length it would be impossible to procure sufficient sound potatoes for planting out, as is customary at the present day. I would, therefore, strongly recommend the cultivation of the potato by means of seed. During more than twenty years I have been accustomed to raise potatoes from seed; the disease of the previous year caused me to reflect more seriously upon the subject, and to extend my operations in this line. My crop of the present year turned out so productive, that no crop, raised from cuttings, can have equalled it. Perhaps if I had not had my crop dug up in the presence of credible witnesses, it would be considered as an exaggeration, when I inform the public, that I have had plants which have yielded a hundred potatoes, some of the size of a hen's egg, many as large as walnuts, and all the others sufficiently large for transplanting. But, it may be asked, whence shall we obtain the seed if we have no potatoes that bear seed to plant out? The disease has not been so universal but that many healthy potatoes will be planted out in many places, which can supply us with a sufficient quantity of seed, provided only, that we collect and preserve the apples more carefully than has been the case hitherto.—*Jerrold's Newspaper*.

LIQUID MANURE.—GREEN CROPS.—We lately saw a field of Swedish turnips and mangel wurzel, at Churchtown, grown by Mr. Roice, from liquid manure, which cannot fail to yield fully *eighty tons to the acre*. The manure was saved thus:—The cattle, which are home-fed, were bedded with sea sand; and this sand, absorbing the urine of the cattle, furnished the means of producing the magnificent crop under our notice.—*Wexford Independent*.

## REVIEWS.



**THE RANUNCULUS, HOW TO GROW IT, OR Practical Instructions in the Cultivation of this favourite Florists' Flower, being the Result of many Years' Experience.** By Tyso and Son, Florists, Wallingford. London: Jackson and Walford, 18, St. Paul's Church-yard.

*How to grow the ranunculus is a secret worth knowing*, if we are to judge from the numerous complaints made by those who are unsuccessful in its cultivation.

The little work before us will, however, prove of great utility, not only to those who have to lament repeated failures, but to those who are desirous of blooming a collection of these beautiful flowers, it will prove invaluable. We will give a short extract :

**" PREPARATION OF THE BEDS.**—Having chosen an open but not exposed part of the garden, which will admit of the beds being laid down about east and west, remove the earth a foot deep, and from three feet to three feet four inches wide, and fill the bed with the prepared compost, to within two inches of the surface ; leave it thus a month, and then add the reserved top soil. These operations are best done in autumn, that time may be allowed for the earth to settle. The surface of the beds should be level, and not more than an inch higher than the paths, in order that the roots may be kept regularly cool and moist ; and as the ranunculus thrives on a firm bottom, the compost should not be disturbed at the time of planting, more than is just needful for that operation. During winter, the surface may be pointed up rough, to take the benefit of frosts, but in no case should this be done more than two inches deep. The beds may be edged with inch boards, painted lead colour, and in case named sorts are planted, should be numbered with white paint, to correspond with the numbers entered in the amateur's list.

"As a bed well constructed at the commencement will admit of several successive plantings, with an annual addition of fertilising materials, it is worthy of the particular care of the cultivator, though the preparation at first may involve some little trouble and expense."

From the above, our readers will perceive that the

work is *truly practical*; and from what we know of the Messrs. Tysos, we are sure their directions may be implicitly followed.

**PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF THE DAHLIA.** By Mr. Charles Turner, Chalvey, near Windsor.

PRACTICAL information on the cultivation of the dahlia, and coming too from so successful a cultivator as Mr. Turner, we are sure will be highly acceptable to our readers. The pamphlet bearing the above title is really what it pretends to be, *pithy, clear, and to the point*, and will be of service to the most scientific cultivator.

Appended, is a list of all the best sorts of dahlias, fancy varieties as well as others, fuchsias, verbenas, pansies, carnations, picotees, &c. and that too at very moderate prices. Mr. Turner is noted for the excellency of the plants which he sends out, and we will refer our readers to the work itself, in corroboration of our assertions, and to his advertisement in the present number, for a few of his new dahlias.

In our March number, we shall, with Mr. Turner's permission, make a few extracts, so that our most humble readers may benefit by his experience.

**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY VOLUME.**—London: R. Baldwin, 47, Paternoster-row.

**THE POTATO, ITS CULTURE, USES, AND HISTORY.**—This little work appears to be a clever compilation from all authentic sources, and the author has collected a mass of information which will be highly interesting to those who wish to become more particularly acquainted with this valuable esculent. We have here its botany, botanical character, chemical composition, a copious list of varieties, with the modes of propagation, &c. &c.; experiments with various manures, diseases, uses, &c. &c. An extract shall be given in our next number.

## POETRY.

[We know not whom our kind contributor, "H. N." may be, but we have great pleasure in laying the following lines before our readers; not only because they are imbued with true poetic feeling, but because *we feel proud when any good thing comes out of Nottingham.*]

## A SKETCH.

(ORIGINAL.)

THEIR childhood I remember well. They were  
As two fair boys as mother ever kiss'd ;—  
A father's pride :—they hunted by the glen  
The butterfly and bee, or by the brook  
Sate they to watch the perch, or silv'ry trout,  
In playful mood glide through the crystal stream.  
Oft have I met them in sweet summer time  
With baskets full (most beautiful and rare)  
Of flowers, pluck'd from mountain top, or side ;—  
And I have asked myself as on the buds  
I fondly gaz'd, which was the loveliest ?  
Sometimes I thought the balance favoured  
One more than the other, yet scarcely thought  
When motionless it stood.

Their cheeks were pictures of the rose's bloom ;  
And when the sky is most serene and blue,  
Such was the lustrous azure of their eyes,  
Most lovely children, I doated on them.  
Nor rolling years decreased their beauty,  
But lent new charms, till like some spotless flow'r  
That blooming 'neath perennial skies uplifts  
Its head in ambient beauty, and unfolds  
Its graceful petals to the gazer's eye  
In all the pride and beauty of its prime :  
Such were they, in the height of childhood's hour,  
Most lovely, bright, and glorious models.

But where are they ?

Alas ! where are they ? Fame, honour, glory,  
Were mantling their young brows, when ruthless fate  
Down head-long hurl'd the glitt'ring crowns. One lies  
Within the crystal caves of India's sea,  
The other Afric's arid sands entomb !

*Nottingham, Nov. 21st, 1846.*

H. N.

## OBITUARY.

MR. J. HAIGH, the subject of the following remarks, was born at Ashton, where he resided the greater part of his life. He was devotedly attached to horticultural pursuits, and for half a

century gave his leisure hours to the pleasures of the flower garden. His favourite flower, and that which he cultivated with the greatest success, was the tulip. He was well known through life as an amiable quiet, and respectable man; and though an old florist, he was not a prejudiced one, but always open to conviction, and ready to embrace every movement that had for its object the true interests of floriculture. His valuable collection, which was sold by auction after his death, sufficiently proves that he had not only not clung to the old and for ever discarded kinds, but that he had also cautiously and judiciously introduced into his bed, many of the new and valuable varieties. It may be reasonably supposed that one who had so long and ardently pursued any favourite enjoyment, would leave some lasting proofs of the sincerity of his pleasures, and of these there remain a few monuments, which will be found in the choicest collections, when many a high sounding name will be entirely forgotten. It is true he did not foist upon the public many worthless varieties, as is too generally the case with the raisers of the present day. His custom was to discard all selfs that failed in either of the two essential properties, namely, *form* and *purity*; and to this general rule may be ascribed the small number of seedlings which bear his name. His Lady Grey, a feathered rose, and Violet Amiable, a feathered bybloemen, will long be found in the most valuable collections, and on the best stages in the kingdom. He was a particular friend of the late James Walker, Esq. of Harper House, Ashton, and joint proprietor with him in the purchase of the justly-celebrated Buckley's Seedlings. His death, which was occasioned by a severe attack of English cholera, happened on the 12th of August, 1846, in the 68th year of his age; and his remains were interred in the parish church of Ashton-under-Lyne.

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## QUERIES.

Will you be kind enough to answer the following in your March number:—Will the gooseberry and the currant hybridize together?—What is the Celina apple? I do not find it in the Horticultural Society's Fruit Catalogue; neither do I find Lord Lennox, nor the Barton Free Bearer named therein. S.

Can you inform me what will be the most appropriate tree to place over a grave, without occupying too much space?

A WIDOW.

Will you be so kind as to give in an early number a list of some of the best show pinks?

A YOUNG FLORIST.

Will you give a list of the best polyanthus grown in the midland counties, and oblige

A YOUNG FLORIST?



Can you inform me whether the Vesuvius and Mount Vesuvius tulips are alike? I received a bulb of the latter, last season, from a friend, and when it bloomed, it proved not to have one of the qualities of a good flower. I have heard Vesuvius spoken of as a good sort; can you explain this? Is Mount Vesuvius worthless, or do you think that season and soil caused it to flower as I have described?

JUVENIS.

Will you oblige me by stating in an early number how I am to make my cactuses bloom? I have several fine plants, which I grow in the window of my sitting-room; they are always healthy and green, but produce no flowers.

A. M.

I have an unsightly wall, which I wish to hide; what are the best plants to accomplish this? I do not so much mind flowers as a thick and effectual covering. You will confer a great favour by answering the above query in your next number.

HENRY ACTON.

What are the best books to study, to get a botanical knowledge of plants?

R. S.

Will it be advisable to crop my fruit tree border? I have lately built a wall, twelve feet high, against which I have planted peaches, apricots, and nectarines. The border is of good loamy soil, and well enriched with rotten manure; I am anxious to know whether crops of peas or early potatoes will be detrimental. Perhaps you will favour me with an early answer, which will oblige

A SUBSCRIBER AND HEARTY WELL-WISHER  
TO THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

I am anxious to grow a few good dahlias, about twenty varieties; will you, or some of your subscribers, give a list in an early number of the *Midland Florist*, of the best in shape, colour, &c.? I am not particular as to their being only just out, though I would willingly give a good price for any thing superior.

J. B—N.

I understand that there are several new strawberries on sale, can you give any information whether they are superior to the varieties at present in cultivation?

JAMES PARR.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



X.X. shall have what he asks for.

BOOKS.—A YOUNG GARDENER.—*M<sup>r</sup> Intosh's Practical Gardener* is a valuable work; *Johnson's Gardener's Dictionary* contains complete treatises on florists' flowers and fruits.

**AMATEUR.**—*Paxton's Gardener's Calendar* is a very useful treatise: the information required will be found therein. *Lindley's School Botany* is the best work on the subject, particularly for a beginner.

In answer to "Ribes," in your late number, I think he has been wrongly informed with respect to the larger sorts of gooseberries being of inferior flavour; for instance, Companion (R.), Gunner (Y.), Dublin (Y.), Overall (G.) Rockwood (Y.), Guido (R.), Leader (Y.), Thumper (G.), Broomgirl (Y.), Keepsake (G.), Pilot (Y.), Ironsides (R.), Lancashire Lad (R.), Crown Bob (R.), Prince Regent (R.), Huntsman (R.), Rifleman (R.), Sovereign (Y.), &c. are all of a good size, first-rate croppers, and their flavour is not to be surpassed. A. B.

"A Subscriber" asks, when is the best time to apply guano to the garden, and what is the best method. Unadulterated guano is of a caustic nature, and in its pure state would be detrimental; it must therefore be mixed with a quantity of heath mould, ashes, or dry soil, say about six or seven times its own bulk. It should be applied in damp weather, to plants or vegetables, when they are beginning to grow.

**TULIPS.**—As "A Youthful Amateur" wishes for information respecting Madame Vestris, you may say in your next number that Clark's Clio, Rutley's Princess Sophia of Gloucester, and Lawrence's Madame Vestris, are one and the same flower, having been broken from the same breeder; but that the generally recognised name is Madame Vestris.—*Extract from a communication, dated Jan. 18, by Mr. G. Lightbody, Falkirk.*

**A YOUTHFUL AMATEUR.**—Princess Sophia and Madame Vestris are very different flowers. Madame Vestris was raised by Lawrence, of Hampton. It is different from all other roses. The white ground is *exceedingly* pure. It is a flamed rose, rarely comes feathered, but is well marked, though the colour is not bright, but peculiar. The shape is good, but it has one peculiarity; the anthers are always of an olive colour, not dark, like tulips in general. It is an excellent show flower, generally in the winning stands. It is very prolific.

W. J. T

**J. R.**—The following is a list of carnations and picotees, suitable for a young beginner:—

**SCARLET BIZARRES.**—Elliott's Duke of Sutherland, Ely's Earl of Mexborough, Twitchett's Don John.

**CRIMSON BIZARRES.**—Ely's Lord Milton, Venables' Spitfire, Soorn's Bloomsbury,

**PURPLE FLAKES.**—Ely's Mango, Milwood's Premier, Brabin's 'Squire Meynell, Turner's Princess Charlotte.

**SCARLET FLAKES.**—Chadwick's Brilliant, Wilmer's Hero of Middlesex, Greasley's Mary Ann, Weldon's Earl of Lichfield.

**ROSE FLAKES.**—Ely's Lady Ely, Wilson's Harriet, Lowe's Marchioness of Westminster.

**RED PICOTEES.**—Jessop's Sir William Middleton, Sharpe's Duke of Wellington, Wood's Queen Victoria, Burrows's Mrs. Bevan.

**PURPLE PICOTEES.**—Crask's Victoria, Dickson's Trip to Cambridge, Mitchell's Nulli Secundum, Johns' Prince Albert, Musson's Charlotte.

**ROSE PICOTEES.**—Wilmer's Fanny Irby, Green's Queen Victoria, Gidden's Diana, Wain's Queen Victoria.

The above sorts may be obtained at a very moderate price.

T. G.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR FEBRUARY.

### KITCHEN AND FRUIT GARDEN.

SHOULD the weather prove favourable at the beginning of this month, it will be necessary to commence gardening in good earnest; but if the soil is wet, it will be advisable to defer operations till it is in a fit state.

At the commencement of the month, *radishes* may be sown on a warm border, covering with litter, to preserve them from the frost. It will also be necessary to put in the first sowing of *beans*; *Mazagans* are dwarf and early, but *Longpods* are more profitable.

Towards the middle of the month, sow *celery* seed on a slight hot-bed; Seymour's Superb White is much thought of in this neighbourhood, and Jones, of Mansfield, Notts. grows a superior red variety.

*Pets.*—The early sorts should now be got in, when the ground is in a fit state. The Auvergne is a good heavy cropper.

*Eschalots*, if not planted in the autumn, and *garlick*, ought to be no longer kept out of the ground; and towards the end of the month, *mustard* and *cress* may be sown in a light warm border.

*Early potatoes* may also be planted in favourable situations; and where desirable, a sprinkling of *radish* seed may be sown with them.

*Rhubarb* and *sea kale* may continue to be forced under pots and boxes; and sowings of *spinach* and *lettuce* should be attended to the latter end of the month.

All planting, particularly of deciduous trees and shrubs (those which cast their leaves in winter), may be proceeded with. Fruit trees of all descriptions should be transplanted forthwith; pruning should be finished, and wall trees nailed without delay.

If *raspberries* are not already staked, let it be done, and the suckers removed; fork the ground well over (for these plants it is better than digging), and give them a good top-dressing of rotten manure. *Strawberries*, if planted in rows, should now be thoroughly cleaned, all wires and dead leaves removed, and forked over.

### FLOWER GARDEN.

In florists' flowers, *auriculas* will require top-dressing, or supplying with liquid manure (see the article in this number), and carefully covering during the night. The generality of the trusses, towards the latter end of the month, will be rising in the hearts of the plants. Give all the air possible. The last week, or about the 22nd, plant *ranunculuses*. (Lists of fine sorts will be found in the January and the present numbers.)

Keep *carnations* free from damp, by constant exposure; and the compost in which they are to be planted for blooming cannot well be turned too often.

*Tulips* will also require much care; covering from excessive frosts is highly essential. This may be done effectually by mats stretched across hoops, which span the bed. *Pinks* and *pansies* must be fastened, when loosened by frost; and the surface of the beds stirred in dry weather, towards the end of the month.

In the flower garden, all borders should be dressed, and box edgings repaired and planted; *roses* finished pruning, and climbing sorts properly fastened and kept within due bounds. In those gardens which have the convenience of hot-bed frames, or small greenhouses, tender annuals should be sown, such as *cockscombs*, *balsams*, &c. for planting out, to bloom early and abundantly.

### GREENHOUSE AND FRAMES.

*Mignonette*, *Prussian* and other varieties of *ten week stocks*, should be sown in pans or boxes; and such things as *narcissuses*, *hyacinths*, *roses*, *pinks*, &c. may be brought into flower in succession, as required. *Dahlias* should also be started; where only a small number are required, simply dividing the tubers will give sufficient; but as the shoots strike root freely in a brisk heat, or even in water, any quantity may be propagated, if required. *Calceolaria* seed may be sown; it must be barely covered; and slips of established varieties may be struck with facility.

*Verbenas*, *salvias*, *geraniums*, and other half hardy plants, ought to be propagated now, in order that the plants may be hardened, and fill their pots with roots, preparatory to being put out, when danger of frost is over.

In the open borders of the flower garden, if any of the herbaceous plants, such as *phloxes*, *delphiniums*, *asters*, *peonies*, &c. are becoming too large, they may be taken up and divided; this season being better than in the autumn.

## Part X.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## ON PINKS.

I OBSERVED the remarks of your correspondent upon this subject, in your former number, and cordially agree with him upon the desirability of the opinions of florists in this neighbourhood being well understood in regard to the requisites in this beautiful, though somewhat neglected flower. The standard of judging, in this part of the country, I am told, is "three rows of petals *at least*, well laced, smooth, neatly imbricated, with a couple of leaves to form a crown." Good! say I, if you can get them. *But* if you cannot get three tiers of good petals, will a flower having only two disqualify my stand? or must it give place to another, possessing the requisite quantity, but inferior in quality? I have always held the opinion that a flower having two rows only of *good* petals and a crown, looks far better than one with three of what may be called "only middling ones." This doctrine is acted upon by the Yorkshire growers, and they are not considered novices in their judgment of a first-rate flower. Perhaps some of your readers would give their opinions on this subject, and state the minimum quantity of petals a flower may be staged with in this neighbourhood. Like your correspondent, I am also one of the "unfashionables," being an admirer of a good plain pink; and I entertain the opinion that if our southern growers be not compelled, ere long, to doff their "fashion," it will at any rate be a work of time to prevail upon us to give up our penchant for a pure black and white.

In conclusion, I beg to remark upon what I consider a serious drawback on the cultivation of this

favourite flower, and that is the enormous prices at which all new sorts are catalogued. I think that from its vast increase and easy cultivation, it ought to be obtained at a reasonable cost; for I cannot think that the *demand*, in one instance out of a hundred, warrants the price asked. I confess that I am an enthusiastic admirer of the *pink*, but consider it "rather *green*" to pay so dear for the whistle.

AMATEUR.

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## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF TULIPS.

BY ALPHA.

[Continued from page 8.]

**LORD LILFORD.**—This splendid feathered bizarre was raised by I. Compton, a silk weaver, residing at Leigh, Lancashire. It is a centre row flower, of good form, feathered with a dark brown, on a pure, rich and bright yellow ground; and is considered by some a match for Charles X.

**MODEL OF BEAUTY** is a second row feathered bybloemen, and from its purity, form, elegant and correct marking, may be considered as one of the most desirable of its class, for the stage.

**PRINCESS ROYAL**, raised by Mr. Walmsley, of Lancaster, is a noble third row flamed rose, of pure bottom, excellent form, and marking; but the colour is apt to run, especially in damp weather.

**SIR JOHN MOORE**, raised in Scotland, by a grower named Reid, is a feathered bybloemen, pure, and marked with a dark bold feather; but too long in the cup to be first-rate.

**VIRGINIA** is an extra fine flamed rose, raised from the seed of Compté de Vergennes, by Mr. Dixon, of Manchester, and broken from the breeder in 1844. It is a third row flower, and from its purity, form, and marking, may be considered a very great acquisition to this interesting class. This splendid seedling is still in the hands of the raiser.

**QUEEN ADELAIDE**, raised from the seed of Queen Charlotte, by a popular florist named Butler, is a good competing flamed bybloemen, very much resembling the Charlotte in colour and character, but inferior to it, having a smaller base and narrower petal.

**MAID OF HONOUR**, raised from the same pod of seed as the **Adelaide**, was considered by Mr. Butler as his finest seedling. It is a second row flamed bybloemen, and from its purity, shape, and rich marking, is justly entitled to a place in the choicest collections.

[To be continued.]

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## ON GRAFTING.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

It often happens that the cultivator of a small garden finds to his great discomfort that he has apple trees either of very bad quality, or extremely unproductive. It is true that he may dig about them, and apply sundry dressings of manure—he may also root-prune them, by cutting through the large and spreading roots, and should he by these means induce fertility, still it will not make a **Woodborough Pippin** *less bitter*, or the **Royal Nonsuch** to *keep better*. He may have sundry plum suckers growing in his garden, on which he may be desirous to graft a new or good sort; or he may wish to divide the produce of his tree (if his space is limited) between two or more varieties which will follow each other in their time of ripening, so as to prolong the enjoyment which he derives from his plot of ground; or his children may have sown pippins of the pear or apple, or the stones of the plum or cherry, and which he would feel great pleasure in himself rendering productive, by *working* (or grafting) with some improved variety.

We do not know that it will materially injure those who sell apple trees, to give a few directions for grafting, whereby the artizan or amateur may accomplish this interesting operation himself. We well recollect, years ago, when we used to bud and graft in a nursery, that considerable mystery was attached to work of this description; and when visitors came in, who were supposed to be *too prying*, it was customary to trim a

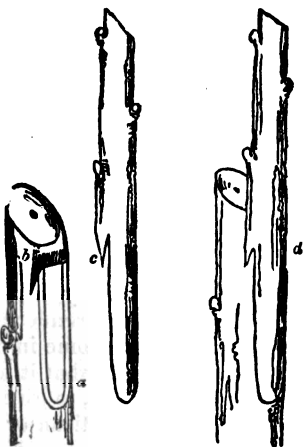
*few stocks, or sharpen the knives*, whilst they were by. All this kind of thing, we are happy to say, has now passed away; and of this we are quite sure, that it has not lessened the demand *for trees*.

We will then premise that a branch of a tree has to be operated upon; if a young one, the system of *whip grafting* will be the best; though there is peg or rind grafting when the trees are older, which we may describe at a future opportunity.

It will be necessary to cut off the top part of the branch in a clean and smooth manner; then with a very sharp knife, make a cut, shaving through the bark and carrying away a small portion of the wood, as seen in the accompanying figure at (a). It is as well that this cut be made of the same width as the scion or graft; but this is not absolutely necessary, for the graft will take well, when only touching one of the sides and the lower part, at (a).

A small tongue, or slit, may then be made in the stock, as at (b). This will keep the scion steady, when its corresponding tongue is inserted in it.

The graft may then be taken in the left hand (the lower part directed towards the operator's body), and held firmly between the thumb and fore-finger, the part which is to be cut resting on the thick part of the thumb; then, with a single draw of the knife, the scion must be cut in a slanting



direction, about the same length as the previous incision on the stock, a similar tongue being made at the upper part, as seen at (c). Then place the graft on the stock, inserting the tongue (c) in the slit



(b), making the bark of the scion and stock fit closely together, not only at the side or sides, but at the lower part also, as seen in the figure (d). It is not only important to the success of the operation, that the above directions should be carefully attended to, but much also depends on the tying and claying. Some soft new bast mat should be slightly damped, and carefully and tightly bound round it, still keeping the edges of the scion and stock securely together. A ball of well tempered clay, in which some fresh horse dung has been mixed (in some cases moss and short hay is added) is then taken, and rolled between the hands till it has assumed the shape of a sausage; it is then applied to the lower part of the graft, and wrapt carefully round it; with both hands it is then fastened over the part tied with the matting, by squeezing and moulding it into the form of a lemon, taking care that there is no crack or vacancy left either at the top or bottom, as the ingress of air or moisture is opposed to the well-doing of the graft.

In conclusion, we may say, that some trees and shrubs not only require to be well clayed, but also the operation to be performed so close to the ground, as to be earthed up in the manner of potatoes; by which means the air is not only excluded, but the graft is also kept in a much more equable temperature, a point in many instances of great importance.

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## FINE ANNUALS FOR SMALL GARDENS.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

HAVING been applied to for a list of some of the most showy, hardy, and easily procurable annual flowers, adapted for small gardens, we subjoin the names of those which we think will answer this purpose, and which may be procured of any respectable seedsman. Some of the varieties here enumerated, were sent

from the north-west of America, by the late Mr. David Douglas; and others from South America.

*Bartonia aurea.* (The Golden-flowered Bartonia.)—This beautiful plant has large flowers, of a showy golden yellow colour, which are produced in abundance; in soil of moderate quality it attains the height of eighteen inches.

*Clarkia pulchella.* (Pretty Clarkia.)—Was introduced, we believe, in 1826, and is a well-known annual; from this, which has pink flowers, a pure white variety has been originated. They are both very desirable, growing about twelve inches high. There is also another, termed *Clarkia elegans*, of stronger and more robust habit than the preceding, and by no means so elegant as its name implies.

*Clintonia pulchella.* (The Pretty Clintonia.)—Very diminutive, and very beautiful, seldom reaching two inches in height. The flowers are purple, with yellow and white in the centre; the seeds are very small. It is best raised in pots, and afterwards removed to the open border. Introduced from Colombia, in 1827.

*Collinsia grandiflora.* (Large-flowering Collinsia.)—Also introduced from Colombia, in 1826. It produces its flowers, which are very beautifully marked with pink and white, in erect spikes. It is a general favourite, growing about twelve inches in height.

*Convolvulus tricolor.* (Three-coloured Bind-weed.)—All the tribe are interesting and beautiful; some are twining plants, as their name imports, whilst others, like the one above-named, are of more humble growth, scarcely reaching six inches in height. The flowers are funnel-shaped, generally white and blue, occasionally variegated or spotted.

*Nemophila insignis.* (The Beautiful Nemophila.)—This may be classed as one of the best annuals grown; it is rather humble in its growth and spreading in its habit. The flowers are a beautiful light blue, with a white centre, and it is well adapted for masses.

*Sphenogyne speciosa.* (The Showy Sphenog.)—When we first flowered this, some years ago, we were forcibly struck with the singular contrast of colour; and when a mass of flowers are fully expanded, on a warm sunny day, few annuals are more beautiful. The flowers are a yellowish buff, with a very dark centre. It will reach about a foot in height, and will continue in perfection for a long period.

*Phlox Drummondii.* (Drummond's Phlox.)—This is remarkably beautiful, varying, however, very much in the colour of its flowers, from pure white through all the shades of blush, pink, scarlet, crimson, and purple. A beautiful and improved variety was originated some years ago, by the late Mr. Wood, nurseryman, of Huntingdon, with flowers of a bright crimson

- scarlet. It is generally raised in pots. Its usual height is twelve inches, but in rich ground it will often attain eighteen.
- Erysimum Perofskianum*. (Perofsky's Hedge Mustard.)—It is a native of Upper India, and was introduced (if our memory serves us right) by a Russian botanist, whose name it bears, and which sounds singular enough to English ears. Its flowers, however, are very pretty, being of a peculiar bright orange, in small spikes, and are well adapted for making *bouquets*, or nosegays. It rises about eighteen inches high.
- Gilia tricolor*. (Three-coloured Gilia.)—This is a very neat and pretty annual, seldom exceeding nine inches in height. Though by no means so showy as those previously enumerated, still it ought to be in every collection. The flowers vary in colour, some being white, others lilac, with dark centres. It flowers very profusely.
- Lupinus nanus*. (Dwarf Lupine.)—This has quite a different habit to the other annual lupines; it is rather straggling in its growth, but remarkably pretty, flowering in beautiful pale blue spikes. It is a native of California.
- Cacalia coccinea*. (Scarlet-flowered Cacalia.)—A very gay scarlet-flowering plant, not generally cultivated, though introduced so long ago as 1799. It does not generally rise higher than nine inches, and is a very desirable addition to the flower garden.

We have grown the above twelve annuals, and can recommend them to our readers as good and worthy their attention. We have also given the scientific names, in spite of the fears of some of our friends, that by so doing, we should *mystify* men of limited education; but as we likewise give the English name, we fancy that there will be little *mystification* in it.

We have also another object in view: we would recommend each person who sows these annuals in his borders during the coming spring, to obtain a few laths, and make some neat pegs, six inches long, smoothing the upper sides, so that they may be written on; he may then slightly rub them with a small portion of white lead (not too moist), then with a black lead pencil copy each name of the seed to be sown, in two parallel lines, thus, { *Lupinus nanus*. }  
{ *Dwarf Lupine*. }

The best and most expeditious plan of sowing, is to get a quart garden pot, and invert it on the well-prepared border, giving it a slight pressure, by which

means a circle will be left in the soil ; here the seed may be sprinkled, and very slightly covered, placing each stick, with the names of the seed sown, in the centre of the ring. By this means, the artizan or amateur will have the proper designation of the plant constantly before his eyes ; *he will learn it* as he examines the *sprouting* seeds—as he *weeds* and *thins* them, he will get more perfect in their pronounciation, and as they bud and bloom, he will be enabled to point them out with gratification to his visitors and children ; and will thus not only obtain an easy lesson in the right nomenclature of plants, but also impart it to others.

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## ON THE CULTURE OF THE ONION.

[From the Transactions of the Gardeners' and Stewards' Mutual Instruction Society, Dublin.]

THE following is a correct account and weight of the produce of twenty-seven rows of onions, sown on the 12th of March, 1846, and harvested in fine condition on the 4th of September ; each row being exactly one hundred feet in length, sown in drills, one foot apart. The ground had been well trenched during the previous winter, ridged, and occasionally forked over on dry, frosty mornings, and was in fine, sweet, friable, pulverised condition, on the day of sowing, when a quantity of charred vegetable refuse, applied in the shape of manure, was forked in, and well incorporated with the soil, to the depth of ten inches, or thereabouts. They were up in full rows the first week in April, strong and healthy ; on the 9th of May, they were sadly cut by a hail-storm, so much so that I was afraid the crop was entirely lost. By strict attention to after management, in favourable weather, by shallow and frequent hoeings with the one-handed crane-necked hoe, they again recovered, and grew

away luxuriantly. A stronger or healthier piece of onions I never previously saw, up to the middle of July; we were then visited by thunder-storms of hail and rough wind, followed by several severe morning frosts, which again injured them to a considerable extent, by beating them flatly down, twisting and bruising their tops, causing them to be affected early by spots, blotchings, mould, mildew, and other parasitical gangrenous-looking diseases, becoming soft and watery-necked. I was once more in fear the crop would prove of little value. One part of the piece that escaped these baneful effects grew fully one-third larger than those so much beat down. The weather again became favourably settled; I had the surface well stirred and loosened between the rows and about the bulbs, leaving the surface rough, light, and loose, to admit of a free ingress of sun and atmosphere, which had a most astonishing and beneficial effect on them. The weather continuing dry and very favourable until the time they were harvested, they had become round, dry, and free from mould, mildew, or any kind of disease or watery-neckedness. The weights of the bulbs were as follow:—

1 row of Old Globe, or James's Keeping Onion, sown thick, for the purpose of pulling through summer, to save injury, and trampling about the regular crop, was ripe a few days earlier, and harvested in prime order, weighed .....	212lbs.
7 rows of Old Brown Globe, hoed and thinned out to the average of five or six inches distance from plant to plant, the united weight was.....	639
7 rows New White Globe, ditto .....	770
6 rows Deptford.....	565
6 rows Reding, ditto .....	607
<hr/>	
27 rows, 100 feet in length.	United weight 2793lbs.

I am a great advocate for thin sowing, and well thinning crops, to admit the hoe, and the free ingress of sun and the atmosphere; and have for some years sown the onion, carrot, and parsnip crop in drills, at

one foot, hoed and thinned in the rows to one foot from plant to plant; and have been in the habit of growing them very large, many of the onions weighing from twelve to seventeen ounces each. They are not at all times required so large, and the important matter is, how to produce the greatest weight from a given space of ground. This is a most important question, and cannot be settled so easily as one at first sight might possibly imagine: this long practice has taught me. This matter, I find, depends on many circumstances, some of which, that have come under my notice, I hope on some future occasion to explain more fully. The foregoing table argues in favour of thick sowing; for although a quantity had been picked from the one row of Brown Globe, from time to time, the produce of sound bulbs harvested being 212lbs. is certainly the most extraordinary production from one hundred feet in length I ever saw or heard of. There was not the least difference in the preparation of the soil, and one thing seemed against such a production, which was, two strong rows of seed onions growing within one foot of the west side of them, though, afterwards, those seed onions turned out a favourable shelter, or break, from the storms, &c. that so much injured the others, particularly the Deptford, which has always proved with me, previously, a first-rate and very productive onion. Long practical experience has fully taught me that, up to the present time, it would be a difficult matter to lay down or state an authentic rule respecting the proper and most productive distance to sow and thin to, for it actually depends on so many circumstances, such as a good staple of rich soil—whether thoroughly well, or not well drained—whether thoroughly well, or not well trenched in due season—whether or not well forked and pulverised, and a sufficiency of the actual properties applied in a good condition, at a seasonable time, in the shape of manure, that the soil may be deficient of, or containing such properties as are requisite to produce the most abundant crop—a due season and

favourable seed time chosen—and favourable weather and due attention in performing carefully and scientifically the whole of the after arrangements, &c.

JAMES BARNES.

*Bicton Gardens, Sidmouth, Devon.*

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## ON THE PROPERTIES OF THE AURICULA.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

[In laying before our readers what we conceive to be the usually accepted and proper mode of judging the auricula, we do not profess to have any peculiar merit in establishing the requisite properties of these beautiful flowers. We are sure that there are hundreds of practical florists in Great Britain, who, like ourselves, have been brought up through life amongst flowers, and who have been well acquainted with the following principles for years. If any of our readers hold different opinions to those hereafter recorded, or can inform us whether they are at variance with those acted on *half a century* ago, we shall be most happy to record their communications, as we feel sure it would be interesting to the floral community at large. Our object is to elicit information, and to *give credit* where *credit is due*. The following article was inserted in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, April 18, 1845; and as it is possible that a very great proportion of our numerous readers have not seen it in that valuable paper, we have ventured to extract it for their information.]

HAVING had repeated applications to publish a code of laws, for the guidance of judges and exhibitors of florists' flowers, and as there appears to be some difference of opinion in various parts of the country, we are anxious to remedy this, by establishing a systematic method of arriving at just conclusions with regard to the merits of many flowers in competition, and at the same time to endeavour to lay down (what appears to us, after twenty-five years' experience) certain properties which are indispensable in first-rate flowers. As the spring shows, throughout the country, usually

begin with the auricula, we will commence the series with that lovely flower, dealing with the polyanthus, tulip, pink, ranunculus, carnation, picotee, and dahlia, seriatim. In different localities various systems of exhibiting the auricula are in practice. In the south it is usual to show in pairs, a green and grey, or white edge for instance. In other parts of the country pans of four, consisting of the above varieties, with a self-coloured one added, are brought in competition; to these some societies add an alpine, which is a shaded auricula, with a yellow eye or paste. Others again, show entirely in classes, the flowers being placed first, second, third, &c., according to their respective merits in each colour. These various systems of exhibiting are of course mere matters of taste or convenience. We shall now mention what, in our opinion, ought to constitute the properties of a first-rate flower. Form, including the shape and proportion of the tube, of course takes the precedence, without reference to colour; for let that be as it may, if the margin of the pips is undulated or frilled (a fault more particularly observable in selfs), or if the segments of each individual corolla are too wide, or should the flower have a disposition to cup, instead of lying flat and smooth, these are drawbacks which no brilliancy of colouring can counterbalance. Other defects under this head consist in the disposition which some flowers have to crack in the paste, towards the tube, which is sometimes the case in *Page's Companion*; also when the tube is not perfectly round, and when the anthers or thrums do not fill the cavity, but appear as if they had discharged their pollen and shrunk to half their size, as in *Pearson's Badajoz*. Again, injuries which the corolla or pip may have received from a bruise, also detract from form, and in judging the merits of the respective flowers, this would be considered a serious defect, though by no means lowering the value of the plant, as this drawback is either caused by accident, or the carelessness of the exhibitor. *Harmony*, or the



proper distribution of the colours, is the second point to which we should draw attention. Judges, on taking into consideration the proportions of colour, will of course attach the greatest merit to those pips where the eye or paste, the dark or body-colour, and the edge of green, grey, or white, are distributed in the most equal proportions; that is to say, the nearer the distance between the tube and inner margin of the dark band approximates in width, to the band itself, and the margin likewise, the better are the proportions. Defects under this head may be pointed out in such flowers as Cockup's Eclipse and Howard's Nelson, where the dark ground is too large in comparison with the other parts; or Taylor's Ploughboy, where it is often too small; and the Pillar of Beauty, in which the body-colour occasionally strikes through to the outer edge. *Colour*, having depth or intensity, must always have the preference (other points being equal), to that of dull appearance. The purer the white, the darker the body-colour, and the more distinct the margin, the greater will be the merit of the flower; and the censors ought to bear in mind, that these colours should be vividly and clearly portrayed. A Lancashire flower called Galloway's Glory of Oldham, has a foxy tinge, between the eye and ground colour, which is a serious defect; Stretch's Alexander is apt to become a pea-green on the margin, after being expanded a day or two, so that a truss of this variety will often have a very motly appearance. Sometimes flowers will be placed for judging with the pounce from the eye, or that of the margin of grey or white-edged varieties, smeared over the ground or body-colour; this fault cannot be overlooked. *Uniformity* is the fourth requisite; for whether the pips forming the head are small, medium, or large, they ought to be as near as possible of a size; nothing looks more awkward than to have some of these twice the size of others, or to have some expanded three or four days or a week, whilst others are comparative buds. A fine contour, if we may so express it, is

indispensible for a first-rate truss. *Size* may be the fifth point for judges to consider. Generally speaking, moderately grown pips come (in florists' phraseology) *the truest and best*; but of course a large flower will always be preferred to a small one, the other properties being equal. Having gone through what we consider the points requisite to form a fine flower for exhibition, and pointed out the defects which they also are liable to, we may observe, that they usually are exhibited in the pots in which they have bloomed. The strength of an unsupported stem, as an evidence of good management, is, by this means, apparent; but cannot be appreciated when shown in bottles, which is often done in the midland counties. Another desideratum (which, though absent, is not absolutely a defect) is a single leaf immediately behind the truss; this gives it a neat and finished appearance, similar to the sprigs of green at the back of a bouquet. The number of pips necessary to form a head for competition, varies much in different localities. In the north they are exhibited with from three to nine; in London and the neighbourhood, seven are considered requisite. Not less than five, however, ought to be allowed (except in the case of the first season of seedlings, when the minimum might be *three*), and as many more as can be symmetrically arranged, that have the required properties. *Selfs*, or auriculas with only one colour besides the eye, are judged on the same principle, as regards form, colour, uniformity, and size, with this exception—that as in some sorts the eye is small in comparison with the blue, purple, or dark, a slight variation is required, under the head of *harmony*; and the paste, or eye, ought to be one-half the width of the tube larger in self-coloured auriculas than in those which are edged. *Alpines*, or auriculas with yellow centres and shaded margins, are judged by the same standard as above. They are not, however, often exhibited, or grown in collections, as it is next to impossible to save good seed, where they are cultivated.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## TREES AND SHRUBS.

**ESCALLONIA ORGANENSIS.**—Discovered on the Organ mountains (whence it derives its specific name). Mr. Lobb sent seeds of it to Veitch, of Exeter. It is described as a most *lovely shrub*; the flowers are deep rose colour, borne on a terminal cymose panicle, and are very beautiful. It is figured in the *Botanical Magazine*, 4274.

**SYRINGA EMODI.** (*Himalayan Lilac*.)—This is a fine hardy shrub, rising from three to five feet in height, flowering in the month of April, having white flowers, similar to privet, and broad distinct foliage.

**SPIRÆ PRUNIFOLIA FLORE PLENO.** (*The Double-flowered Plum-leaved Spiræ*.)—This charming shrub was introduced into Europe by Dr. Siebold, to whom our collections are indebted for so many novelties, only to be procured with the utmost difficulty. It deserves the attention of all amateurs, as well for its hardiness as its elegant habit and beautiful flowers. The Dutch traveller found it cultivated in the Japanese gardens, and supposes it to be a native of Corea, or the north of China. It is a shrub of from six to nine feet high, and has upright close bushy slender branches, which are covered with a smooth ash-coloured bark, which detaches itself at a later period in thin scales. The leaves are oval, rounded at their base, and rather pointed, downy beneath, and toothed on the edge. The flowers, which grow by threes or

sixes, cover the whole length of the branches, are as white as snow, and very double, in consequence of a complete abortion of their stamens. Their shape is exactly like that of the *Ranunculus aconitifolius* (better known to our readers as the Fair Maid of France, or Double Mountain *Ranunculus*), with double flowers, and their number and arrangement, together with a light and elegant bright green foliage, render this plant a charming addition to the shrubs which grow in the open air.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

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### NEW PLUMS.

THE following plums have been originated from seed by the gentleman whose name they bear, who resides at Tay Bank, in the neighbourhood of Dundee, North Britain.

We understand that they are extremely prolific, and as they are from Scotland, they will, no doubt, prove very hardy; in fact, we would much rather plant trees coming from a more *northerly climate* than our own, providing their qualities were equal, or nearly so, to those originated in more southern counties.

The exhibitors of prize gooseberries are aware of this; they would sooner purchase a seedling raised in the bleak parts of Staffordshire or Derbyshire, than those grown in richer and warmer localities, knowing by experience that they will not be so liable to disappointment in the fruit; as it is more likely to increase in size than otherwise, when removed to a more congenial situation.

*Guthrie's Tay Bank*.—This is a green, plum of large size and most excellent flavour; it ripens rather late in the season, from the beginning to the middle of September, according to soil and situation.

*Guthrie's Apricot*.—As its name imports, it has a slight flavour of the apricot. It is of first-rate quality and large size; its colour is yellowish green; and we understand it ripens as late as the end of September.

## VEGETABLES.

**INCOMPARABLE MARROW PEA.**—Said to be the finest yet introduced, of excellent flavour, and a most abundant cropper. Its height, however, which is six feet, is rather against it, for small gardens; but in larger ones, or where there is room for it, there is no doubt it will be extensively cultivated. It must not be gathered young, as, from its tenderness, we understand, it boils away; and in planting, an inch must intervene between each pea.

**HURLESTONE'S PRINCE ALBERT.**—This is an extremely early variety of marrow, rivalling the Warwick, or Early Frame, in precocity.

**RILLOT'S FLOWER-BALL POTATO.**—Amongst the numerous varieties which have of late years been originated from seed, this sort will most certainly occupy a prominent position, when many others are forgotten. It was raised from the American Native, is round, with shallow eyes, rather rough on the skin, extremely prolific, and to crown all, we never recollect tasting one of better flavour, or that was so dry and mealy. Its title is extremely appropriate.

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**HARDINESS OF EARLY PEAS.**—By some experiments made by Mr. Griffin, of Cowley, near Exeter, it appears that the Early Warwick pea is more hardy and prolific than either Cormack's Prince Albert, or the Early Kent; and being a stronger grower, also requires more room than them. Cormack's Prince Albert is, however, the earliest of these three varieties.—*Annals of Horticulture.*

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

—◆—  
BROCOLIS.

WE copy the following observations from that excellent work *M'Intosh's Practical Gardener*, which will afford the requisite information to many of our readers who have lately made inquiry on this subject:—

Purple and Green Cape, if sown in May and June, will produce a regular supply from August to December: the same sorts sown in July and August, will, if the winter be mild, afford a supply during April and May.

Grange's Early White, or Cauliflower Brocoli, which is the same thing, if sown at three different periods, between the first of May and the last of June, will produce a regular supply from Michaelmas to Christmas. The Early Purple, if sown in April, will produce from November till February: a sowing of the same sort, made in June, will produce excellent sprouts during March and April.

The Sulphur-coloured, Spring White, and Late Dwarf Close-headed Purple, are excellent sorts, and will produce heads during April and May, from seeds sown the preceding March and April.

The Siberian, Danish or Latest Green, is the most hardy of the whole tribe; it grows close to the ground, and occupies only a small space. Seeds sown in April will produce heads during May, the following year.

The Portsmouth, or Cream-coloured, is the largest heading sort, and will be in great perfection from February till April, from seed sown in April, the preceding year.

ON THE  
CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF VERBENAS.

[Abridged from a paper read by Mr. Fry, at a meeting of the West Kent Philanthropic Society of Gardeners.]

THE following varieties are stated to be the best for bedding, being of compact habit, &c. &c.:—

*Atrosanguinea*.—Rich blood red.

*Igneæ*.—Very bright scarlet.

*Duchess of Sutherland*.—Blush, deep rose spot.

*Favourite (Miller's)*.—Bright rose, good.

*Emperor*.—Crimson, clear white eye.

*Emma*.—Rich purple.

*Merry Monarch*.—Scarlet, rose margin.

*Giant*.—Lavender coloured, a strong grower.

*Boule de Feu*.—Brilliant orange scarlet.

*Tricolor Alba*.—Rather a strong grower, corolla white, yellow eye.

*Amethystina*.—Blue lavender, rather delicate.

*Avelanche*, *Princess Royal*, and *Queen*, are all good whites.

*Ingrammii*.—Rose, with dark centre.

*Rose d'Amour*.—Fine deep rose.

*Hendersonii*.—Dark purplish crimson.

*Wonder of Scarlets*.—Perhaps the best of deep scarlets.

*Josephine Beauharnois*.—A fine blue.

Mr. Fry condemns the system of bunching up verbenas, for exhibition, and we think very properly too. He says, "I would here observe, that where *verbenas* are shown, they ought to be exhibited as single trusses of bloom, and not bunched up like a bouquet, as is the common practice, and which bespeaks but very little judgment or merit. Indeed, under these circumstances, their bona fide properties cannot be defined by the censors, and thus the system ought to be repudiated."

With regard to propagation, he recommends cuttings to be struck early in August, in ordinary circumstances; but adds, "In my opinion, in those establishments where early forcing is carried on, or where artificial heat can be commanded at all, it is much the best to propagate in the spring months; these, with due care, generally make the best stuff for turning out."

He further adds, "I would recommend about the month of June or July, to turn out in some open

border or spare piece of ground, a plant or two of those varieties worth cultivating, from two to three feet apart, keeping them well watered in dry weather, and free from weeds; and at the end of August layer the shoots into three inch pots, plunged about the plants, and filled with good light loam of free texture; let each shoot be kept in its proper place by inserting a small peg or placing a stone on the same. By adopting this simple mode of treatment, anon you have good plants; the only attention required being to water, and stop the shoots as they grow. These being thoroughly established may be wintered with little difficulty, and may be increased to almost any extent in the spring, giving them a shift into five-inch pots at the time of their transition into a higher temperature. Never let them become soddened at any time, especially when in small pots, in the autumn."

His concluding remarks relative to insects must be strictly observed, to ensure success. "They are liable to become infested with the green fly; the progress of these intruders should be stopped on their first appearance, by fumigating with tobacco. If this is neglected, the plants soon assume an unsightly appearance, their growth is impeded and health impaired, fit companions only for those plants which find their way to the rubbish heap."

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### THE PITMASTON CHAMPAGNE GOOSEBERRY.

THIS is an improved valuable garden production, raised by John Williams, Esq. of Pitmaston, between that variety of gooseberry known in our gardens as the Red Champagne and one of the robust North American species, with strong double spines and small black astringent berries. The flowers of the Champagne were fertilized with the pollen of the American plant, the name of the species being now unknown, its cultivation having been discontinued on account of the superiority of its offspring. The produce of this cross inherited too much of the quality



of the exotic plant, therefore seedlings, without hybridization, were subsequently raised from it; and amongst these, two or three possess valuable properties. That which, by the obliging attention of Mr. Williams, we now publish, has the rich sweetness of the Champagne gooseberry combined with the black currant-like aroma of the North American parent. The chief peculiarities exhibited by the bush, are its luxuriant spreading growth, as it promises to become four times the size of a common gooseberry bush, and its having very strong spines, some nearly an inch long. The fruit is small, but very abundant; and it ripens and remains long on the tree in its mature state.—[The above we have extracted from that valuable periodical *Maund's Botanic Garden*, for August, 1846, in which is given a representation of this variety of gooseberry.]

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### PLANTING RANUNCULUSES.

To know how to do this properly is a point of great importance; and those who have not already planted will do well to observe the following directions, extracted from the little work which we reviewed in our last number, by Messrs. Tyso and Son, and which all ranunculus growers ought to possess:—

“The best season for general planting is the last fortnight in February—The plants have not then to contend with the severities of the winter. In some favourable seasons, roots may be planted with advantage in October; they will have more time to vegetate and establish themselves; will make stronger plants, and will bloom more vigorously, and about a fortnight earlier than if planted in spring. Considerable hazard, however, attends autumn planting, and it is not recommended, except by way of experiment, to those who possess a large stock and can afford to risk a portion.

“In fine weather, towards the close of February, rake your beds perfectly level, and divide them into six longitudinal rows, for mixed roots, allowing four inches from the outside row to the edge; or for named sorts, mark your rows transversely, at distances of five inches asunder, and plant six roots in a

transverse row. Draw drills one inch and a half deep, and plant the roots with the claws downwards, with a gentle pressure to secure them in the soil, so as to be one inch and a half from the crowns to the surface. When planting on a small scale, a dibble, with a shoulder at the precise depth, may be used, but in large quantities it is an inconvenient method; and planting at the bottom of a drill, with slight pressure, and without disturbing the subsoil, is attended with similar advantages to the use of a dibble, and in practice will be found to have some points of preference.

"If the top soil is light after planting, it may be gently beaten with the back of a spade; this operation, however, must be only done in dry weather."

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### HYBRID PERPETUAL ROSES.

THE following are a few excellent hybrid perpetual roses, which can be cultivated as dwarfs or half-standards with fine effect, blooming profusely during the summer months; and likewise producing a second crop of flowers in autumn, of large size, brilliancy, and perfume. Unfortunately there is too much similarity in many of this class of flowers.

The sorts enumerated have been cultivated here, and are selected for their general good properties, as well as their dissimilarity.—CONDUCTOR.

*La Reine*.—An extremely strong growing variety, with very large flowers, having finely cupped petals, of a bright rose colour.

*Madame Laffay*.—This is a general and deserved favourite, not only for its beautifully formed crimson flowers, but also for its powerful fragrance.

*Duchess of Sutherland*.—A very splendid light variety, pale rose, occasionally marbled, with petals finely cupped. This contrasts well with the darker sorts.

*Auberon*.—Powerfully scented, bright light crimson flowers, double, well formed, and large.

*Dr. Marx*.—Perfectly distinct from any of the preceding varieties; flowers of a peculiar deep pink, large and fragrant.

*Clementine Seringe*.—This is a rather coarse looking, light pink rose, with very double and large flowers; it is esteemed for its grateful perfume.

*Prince Albert*.—A fine variety, with flowers of a dark crimson; it is also highly fragrant, and when well grown, is a superb rose.

**TABLE,**  
**SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE EARLINESS OF DIFFERENT**  
**KINDS OF PEAS.**

**BY MR. A. FORSYTH, ALTON TOWERS.**

<i>Date of sowing.</i>	<i>Name of Sort.</i>	<i>When fit for Table.</i>	<i>No. of Days growing.</i>	<i>Remarks, Height, &amp;c.</i>
March 28	Prince Albert .....	June 19	83	3 ft., fine early sort
—	Bishop's Early Dwarf.....	June 26	90	9 in., inferior every way
—	Early Racehorse.....	June 29	93	3 ft., nothing meritorious
—	Shilling's Grotto.....	June 29	93	3 ft., most excellent
—	Dwarf Green Marrow.....	July 10	103	3 ft., large pea, fine quality, full crop
—	Blue Prussian .....	July 10	103	2 ft., good
—	Matchless Marrow.....	July 17	110	3 ft., immense pods, large pea, good quality, full crop
—	Lynn's Wrinkled Marrow	Aug. 1	125	4 ft., good late sort
—	American Marrow.....	July 17	110	2 ft., fine pea, full crop
—	Blue Scimeter .....	July 25	118	3 ft., good bearer
—	Bedman's Blue Imperial..	July 20	113	3 ft., good pea, full crop
—	Flack's Victory .....	July 17	110	2½ ft., large pea, full crop
—	Victoria Marrow.....	July 25	118	6 ft., large pods
—	Auvergne .....	July 17	110	4 ft. fair crop
—	Groom's Superb Blue .....	July 17	110	2 ft., thickly set with pods, full of fine peas

The above peas, it will be seen, were sown on the same day, under similar circumstances of manure, soil, and situation.

*Gardener's Chronicle.*

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### VICTORIA REGIA.

THE following description of the beautiful South American Water Lily, the *Victoria Regia*, which is certainly the most noble of all aquatic plants, is given in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, for January.

Seeds have on several occasions reached this country, but we believe none vegetated, till Mr. Bridges brought some home with him; these have produced plants, which are now in the Royal Botanical Gardens, at Kew.

We are sure the editor of the *Botanical Magazine* will excuse our extracting the following graphic description for our readers, hundreds of whom would perhaps never have heard of such a plant, except through the medium of our pages, from the impossibility of being able to procure more expensive works.

We therefore take the liberty of giving Mr. Bridges' own words :—

“During my stay at the Indian town of Santa Anna, in the province of Moxos, republic of Bolivia, during the months of June and July, 1845, I made daily shooting excursions in the vicinity. In one of these I had the good fortune (whilst riding along the woody banks of the river Yacuma, one of the tributary rivers of the Mamoré) to come suddenly on a beautiful pond, or rather small lake, imbosomed in the forest, where, to my delight and astonishment, I discovered for the first time “*the Queen of Aquatics*,” the *Victoria regia*! There were at least fifty flowers in view, and Belzoni could not have felt more raptures at his Egyptian discoveries than I did in beholding the beautiful and novel sight before me, such as it has fallen to the lot of few Englishmen to witness. Fain would I have plunged into the lake to procure specimens of the magnificent flowers and leaves; but knowing that these waters abounded in alligators, I was deterred from doing so, by the advice of my guide and my own experience of similar places.

“The *Victoria regia* grows in four to six feet of water, the blossoms rise six and eight inches above the surface, expanding first in the evening, when they are *pure white*, changing finally, and by exposure to the sun, to a most beautiful *pink*, or rose colour; flowers may be seen at the same time partaking of every tinge between the two hues, the recently expanded being pure white, and the adult rosy, almost sinking under water to ripen its seed, and produce a new race of plants, when required. The largest flowers I saw measured from ten inches to one foot in diameter. I had an opportunity of experiencing the fragrance of the flowers. Those I collected for preserving in spirits were unexpanded, but on the point of opening; on arriving at the government house, in the town, I deposited them in my room, and returning after dark, I found to my surprise that all had blown, and were exhaling a most delightful odour, which at first I compared to a rich pineapple, afterwards to a melon, and then to the cherimoya; but indeed it resembled none of these fruits, and I at length came to the decision that it was a most delicious scent, unlike every other, and peculiar to the noble flower that produced it.”

We happened to hear, a few days ago, that in a large allotment of small gardens, at Radford, near Nottingham, each piece of ground is supplied with water, and that too in a tepid or warm state; the waste hot water coming from the large factory of Mr. John Thackeray, is made to flow into pits, so that each proprietor may use warm or cold water, as suits him best. We confess we are not much ac-

quainted with the cultivation of tropical aquatic plants, but we imagine it would be very easy, by placing a common garden frame over one of these pits, and putting suitable compost at the bottom, or what would perhaps be better, planting the plants in large pots, to grow some of the splendid water lilies and aquatic plants of more southern climes. We trust some of our readers who have allotments there, will try the experiment, and we are confident their exertions will not be unrewarded.—CONDUCTOR.

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### Part III.

## REVIEW.



**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY VOLUME.** *London: R. Baldwin, Paternoster-row. Nottingham: R. Sutton.*

THIS work progresses favourably. We have now the history, uses, varieties, and propagation of that most useful fruit "The Gooseberry."

We feel pleasure in recommending the work, for it will not only be found useful to those "*old dorums*" who know *every thing*, but it will be invaluable to the beginner; giving him much insight into the cultivation of this (*par excellence*) "*the poor man's fruit*."

There is a copious list of varieties, to which are attached the greatest recorded weights they have attained; and here we see that the heavy berry, London, grown by our townsman, Mr. Gibson, has been excelled by one exhibited at Ounsdale, by a Mr. Elliott.

We think our readers cannot do better (at least those who are interested in gooseberry culture) than refer to the book itself, which we can cordially commend.

## QUERIES.

Myself and several friends in this neighbourhood have many seedling flowers, particularly polyanthus, pinks, and carnations. We are anxious to have your opinion of them as they come into flower, and therefore shall be glad of information how and where to send them. A DERBYSHIRE FLORIST.

[We shall be happy to receive specimens of florists' flowers from our friends; we get our letters generally twice a day, and there will be less delay, if directed to us, in the usual manner. Specimens may be carefully wrapped in silver paper, and inclosed in a small *chip box*, and fastened steadily with either damp moss or cotton wool.—CONDUCTOR.]

It perhaps may be out of the range of the *Midland Florist* to notice *bees* and their *management*. Last year, whilst walking in the Lammas fields, I found a swarm of bees, in a large hedge; and after some difficulty, succeeded in hiving what, I suppose, was another person's property. Not hearing of an owner, I removed them to my garden, where they continued the remainder of the summer, working well. On examining them, a few days ago, I found much comb in the hive, and many bees. I wish to know whether I must feed them and on what.

A LACEMAKER.

[We are very great advocates for a more extended cultivation (if we may use the term) of these industrious and profitable insects. There either is, or used to be, an aparian or bee society, at Oxford. We should be glad to hear how it is going on from some of our friends there. In the mean time, our correspondent may get a small plate, on which he may place regularly some stout wheaten straws, the length being proportioned to the hollow part. This may be filled with sugar and ale, or sweet wort; the proportions with which we feed ours, are four ounces of coarse sugar or honey, boiled in half-a-pint of good beer. In the evening, the hive must be carefully lifted up, and the plate, with its contents, placed on the stand, beneath the hive. It must be replenished when requisite, taking care that the food is as fresh made as possible.—CONDUCTOR.]

I think, as your work is much read by those who have small gardens, that it would be highly useful and interesting if you would give occasional receipts: for instance, such as preserving rhubarb; also the various modes of cooking vegetables, bottling fruits, &c. &c. Very many artizans and their wives would be highly pleased with information on these subjects. R. S.

Pray can you inform me what is the best method of raising potatoes from seed? I. P.

I shall esteem it a favour, if you, or some of your numerous contributors, will give some information as to the best method of growing and blooming stocks; and whether seed can be obtained from double ones. H.

I sometimes hear very singular names of plants and trees. I have been told that there are the *Tooth-ache Tree*, the *Umbrella Tree*, the *Maiden-hair Tree*, &c. &c.: will you please to say, in your next number, whether these trees are hardy or ornamental? and if so, whether easily procurable?

A YOUNG FORESTER.

The editor of the *Midland Florist* would much oblige one of his readers by inserting the following query:—"A poor operative being desirous of erecting a three-light brick pit, for preserving a few tender plants during the winter months, would be glad if any reader of the *Midland Florist* would inform him of the most economical mode of heating it, together with the probable cost of its erection." An answer to this would most probably prove interesting to many readers of the *Midland Florist*, whose means, like the querist's, are very limited, but who would nevertheless be glad to cultivate a few of those beautiful tender plants, which are mostly regarded as beyond their means. I also beg to ask if Cape heaths can be cultivated successfully in a cold pit? and if so, what are the best species for that purpose?

You will oblige a reader of the *Midland Florist* by giving in your next number a list of the best apples, pears, and plums grown in the midland counties; with directions for root pruning.

May I ask the favour of your opinion as to whether *budding* is preferable to *grafting* fruit trees? A YOUNG GARDENER.

Having heard the Dove Bank Plum spoken highly of, will you, or some of your readers, furnish me with the origin of this variety? and inform me if it bear out the character of being a fine-flavoured plum and a great bearer? POMONA.

In the first number of the *Midland Florist* you recommended the planting of *espalier* apple trees, in preference to *standards*. Now would you oblige your readers with your reasons for this; as I have been informed by an old and experienced gardener that espaliers are not so fruitful, and the fruit not so fine as from standards: moreover, he says, espaliers harbour all kinds of insects and grubs, from which it is impossible to keep them free. Being about to stock a small garden, I am anxious to purchase such trees as will be most productive, and bear the finest fruit.

A LOVER OF A GOOD APPLE.

The Travelling Queen is esteemed a valuable apple in the neighbourhood of Nottingham. Perhaps some of the nurserymen who read the *Midland Florist* will favour its readers with the origin and qualities of the same.

A NOTTINGHAM AMATEUR HORTICULTURIST.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I beg to forward a list of twenty-four good dahlias, which I trust will meet the wishes of J. B——n. They are of excellent quality, and may now be had at very reasonable prices, of any respectable dealer.

*Nuttall.*

R. EDWARDS.

*Antagonist* (Braggs).—Beautiful white, rather uncertain, when in good character an excellent show flower. Height 4 feet.

*Athlete* (Chereau).—Deep lilac, good habit, a first-rate variety for exhibition. Height 4 feet.

*Alice Hawthorn* (Drummond).—Clear white, laced with rosy purple, a superb show flower. Height 4 feet.

*Admiral Stopford* (Trenfield).—A most excellent variety; its dark plum-coloured petals are finely cupped, and it is a general favourite. Its usual height is from 4 to 5 feet.

*Bathonia* (Drummond).—A very constant flower, of beautiful outline; it has great depth of petal; colour deep crimson; occasionally it comes rather sunk in the eye. Height 4 ft.

*Beeswing* (Drummond).—Deep crimson red, a superb show flower. Height 4 to 5 feet.

*Cleopatra* (Attwell).—Light yellow, large size, very constant, an excellent sort. Height 5 feet.

*Consolation* (Widnall).—Rich deep crimson, very compact, good show flower; it requires to be grown strong. 4 feet.

*Captain Warner* (Girling).—Crimson red, good habit, a superb show flower. 4 feet.

*Dazzle* (Keynes).—Dark scarlet, very constant and beautiful, of first-rate properties. 4 feet.

*Essex Primrose* (Wicks).—Large and fine show flower; it must not be grown very strong. 5 feet in height.

*Fulwood Hero* (Tebay).—Light rosy purple, shaded up the centre of each petal with crimson, of fine form and habit. Height 4 feet.

*Hero of Stonehenge* (Whale).—Deep mulberry, a fine show flower. 5 feet.

*Lady Sale* (Smith).—Yellow, laced with red, good, and very pretty. 4 feet.

*Mrs. Shelley* (Mitchell).—Beautiful rosy lilac, very constant and good. 4 to 5 feet.

*Optimus* (Widnall).—Creamy white, one of the best grown. Height 4 feet.

*Princess Radsville* (Gains).—White, laced with rosy purple, very perfect outline, the best in its class. 4 feet.



*Queen of Roses* (Widnall).—Beautiful rosy pink, good habit and form, rather below the average size, but when well grown, a first-rate show flower. 4 feet.

*Rose d'Amour* (Batteur).—The best rose colour grown. 4 feet.

*Sir R. Sale* (Smith).—Crimson purple, fine form. 4 feet.

*Sir J. S. Richardson* (Union).—Dark bronzy rose; it often makes a fine show flower, if not grown too strong. 5 feet.

*Sir Edmund Antrobus* (Keynes).—Bright crimson, very constant and first-rate. 4 feet.

*Standard of Perfection* (Keynes).—A superb show flower, dark crimson. 4 feet.

A FEW GOOD DAHLIAS.—In answer to the inquiries of your correspondent, J. B——n, I here subjoin a list of fine dahlias. Having long been a successful cultivator of this flower, I can confidently recommend them. They are the best we have; and all who grow dahlias for exhibition, should possess as many of them as they can. The selection may be made in numerical order, according to the number wanted.

#### PHILO-DAHLIA.

1. *Beeswing* (Sainsbury).—Deep crimson, or ruby.

2. *Marchioness Cornwallis* (Whale).—Blush white.

3. *Nonpareil* (Prockter).—Dull scarlet, or light red.

4. *Cleopatra* (Attwell).—Yellow.

5. *Standard of Perfection* (Keynes).—Dark purple.

6. *Caledonian* (Sharpe).—Silvery lilac.

7. *Mrs. Shelley* (Mitchell).—Rose.

8. *Beauty of Hants.* (Oakley).—Creamy white, laced pink.

9. *Captain Warner* (Girling).—Crimson.

10. *Lady Leicester* (Girling).—Buff.

11. *Admiral Stopford* (Trenfield).—Dark maroon.

12. *Princess Radville* (Gaines).—White and crimson.

13. *Sir J. S. Richardson* (Union).—Bronzy rose.

14. *Miss Sarah* (Edwards).—Blush white.

15. *Prometheus* (Wildman).—Rich purple.

16. *Essex Bride* (Turville).—Light lilac.

17. *Duke of York* (Keynes).—Dark scarlet.

18. *Marquis of Aylesbury* (Spary).—Rosy lilac.

19. *Essex Triumph* (Turville).—Maroon.

20. *Princess Royal* (Hudson).—Sulphur, edged pink.

21. *President of the West* (Whale).—Crimson.

22. *Athlete* (Chereau).—Lilac.

23. *Raphael* (Brown).—Dark, shaded.

24. *Lady St. Maur* (Brown).—White, edged lavender.

Those who feel inclined to add a few of the newest varieties to their collections, would do well to procure the following:—

1. *Queen of Sheba* (Watkinson).—The best White.

2. *Yellow Standard* (Keynes).—The best yellow.

3. *Berryer* (Turner).—The best dark, nearly black.

4. *Scarlet Gem* (Turner).—The best scarlet.

**A YOUNG FLORIST.**—Some of the best polyanthus grown in the midland counties are included in the following twelve, and would be good sorts to begin with:—Bullock's Lancer, Buck's George IV., Gibbons's Marquis of Hastings, Gibbons's Royal Sovereign, Hufton's Earl Grey, Hufton's Lord Lincoln, Hufton's 'Squire Ray, Hufton's Lord Ranccliffe, Hufton's Sir John Hobhouse, Pearson's Alexander, Sanders's Cheshire Favourite, Hudson's Alexandrina.

**A YOUNG FLORIST.**—The following are the best polyanthus for exhibition:—Pearson's Alexander, Bullock's Lancer, Piggott's Duchess of Kent, Wallis's Prince of Wales, Staton's Champion, Cheshire Favourite, Bang Europe, Buck's George IV., Hall's Sir R. Peel, Collier's Princess Royal, Hilton's St. Jean d'Acre, Hufton's Earl Grey and Traveller, Staton's Barnaby Rudge, Hudson's Champion, and Brown's Free Bloomer.

JOHN STATON.

**A YOUNG FLORIST.**—A list of the best pinks for exhibition, as requested in the February number:—Jones's Huntsman, Fairbairn's Bob Lawrence, Lee's Joseph Sturge, Hudson's Climax, Marris's Cardinal, Sharpe's Splendid and William Cobbett, Neville's John Dickson, Hastings's Tom Long, Kirkland's Melrose, Bunkill's Victoria, Williams's Elizabeth, Hudson's North Britain, Willmer's Miss Jeans, Headley's Duke of Northumberland, Hodges's Mars, Ottey's Dr. Edwards, Kerr's Harriett, Cowdery's Lord Calthorpe, Kirkland's Gaylad.

JOHN STATON.

**A YOUNG FLORIST.**—We think the following varieties will please him:—*Purple-laced*: Headley's Duke of Northumberland, Taylor's Mango, Fairbairn's Bob Lawrence, Jones's Huntsman, Willmer's Elizabeth, and Williams's True Blue.—*Red-laced*: Lee's Joseph Sturge, Hicks's Beauty of Weston, Hudson's Red Rover, Marris's Rosea elegans, Kirkland's Melrose, and Kerr's Harriett.—*Black and White, or Plain Pinks*: Hudson's Duchess of Devonshire, Beauty of Blackburn, and Miss Jessop.

**A. M.**—*Cactuses* are natives of hot and dry countries, where they perhaps do not get rain for three or four months together; it is a mistaken notion which most *window gardeners* entertain, that they require watering *at least once a week*. If our correspondent will, during the hottest period of next summer, expose her plants to the direct influence of the sun's rays, in the warmest situation she can find, and withhold water during that time, or perhaps only give them a thorough soak once a month, she will find that her plants will flower the succeeding spring.

**R. S.**—*Lindley's Introduction to Botany* and *Loudon's Encyclopædia of Plants*.

- A WIDOW.**—The Weeping Willow (*Sàlix Babylónica*) is usually considered most appropriate ; but it would grow too large for such a situation. There is a variety called the American Weeping Willow, which is so slender and pendulous as to require to be grafted on to a strong growing sort, to ensure a stout stem. The Weeping Purple-flowering Cytisus, a variety lately imported from the Continent, would be very applicable ; grafted on four-foot stems, its pendent shoots soon reach the ground. They are covered, during part of the summer, with lilac pea-shaped blossoms, and would not, we imagine, grow too large. As we are all more or less interested in this matter, and especially as cemeteries are now becoming numerous, we purpose shortly stating our views more at length on this subject.
- JUVENIS.**—Mount Vesuvius and Vesuvius tulips are alike. It is a third row flamed bizarre, rather dull in colour, too long in the cup, and uncertain in its markings. We should advise our correspondent to turn it out of his collection ; we have done so long since with ours, believing it to be worthless.
- HENRY ACTON.**—Ivy is undoubtedly the best covering for a wall, where flowers are not an object. Plant a *Virginian Creeper* or two as well ; the leaves of which die off a deep crimson in the autumn, and contrast most beautifully with the ivy.
- A SUBSCRIBER, ETC.**—Fruit tree borders should be cropped lightly. Lettuce, endive, eschalots, radishes, and other low growing crops may be cultivated thereon ; but peas, or any thing that rises high, or intercepts the rays of the sun, are decidedly injurious.
- JAMES PARR.**—We have heard that there are some new strawberries coming out ; also several imported from the Continent. We will report on them as soon as we can get well authenticated information.
- A. B. Z.**—Most certainly we think our correspondent will do right by attending to the directions given in the Calendar. Ranunculuses are occasionally planted in the autumn ; but the time specified will be found the best to ensure a good bloom, as injury from frosts will not then be so likely to accrue.
- C. H. C.**—We beg to say, that we some years ago had the Sturmere Pippin from Mr. Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth, Herts. who, we make no doubt, can supply good plants, delivered, we believe, *carriage-free* in London. We have likewise good pyramidal dwarf trees (*see advt.*) If prize gooseberries are required, all the sorts mentioned in the article by the Rev. S. Creswell, may be obtained in the neighbourhood of Nottingham.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR MARCH.



## KITCHEN GARDEN.

**Beans.**—This is the best time for sowing the main or principal crop. Plant in double rows; these rows may be four feet asunder, so that *cauliflower brocolis* may be planted between them, as a succession crop. *Beans* are excessively scarce this season, consequently few people will be disposed to waste much seed by thick planting. Johnson's Wonder, a variety of long-pod, is a large and prolific sort, and well worthy of extensive cultivation.

**Peas.**—In sowing, make the drill broad, and scatter the peas thinly in it; few culinary crops suffer so much from being crowded as these. Look well after mice; a small jar, half-filled with water, and sunk in the ground, having the under part of the rim rubbed with dripping, is said to be a good trap, as in endeavouring to reach the fat, they overbalance themselves and fall in.

*Asparagus-beds* should now be made.

Sow all sorts of *lettuce*. Drumhead, or Malta, from its large size and crispiness, is a general favourite; the Paris Coss and Black-seeded Bath are excellent, and require little or no tying. Transplant autumn-sown plants.

*Cresses* of different kinds may be regularly sown every fortnight, for succession. Independent of the common variety, there is a sort called American Cress, which is very desirable for winter salads, being excessively hardy.

*Radishes* of all sorts should be sown on dry and warm borders.

Those of our readers who are fond of *tomatoes* or *love apples*, should now sow the seeds in pots, and

place them in a hot-bed, that the young plants may be put out at the foot of a south wall, or other convenient situation, in May.

*Carrots* may be sown in drills, about nine or ten inches apart. This is a much better plan than sowing broad-cast; in fact, all crops are more easily cleaned when sown in rows, and can be thinned to a greater nicety, as well as allowing the intervening space to be well loosened with the hoe, which will be found in most cases highly advantageous.

Towards the end of the month, the different sorts of *brocoli* may be sown, for autumn and winter use; and will do to prick in between the rows of beans and peas, in May.

*Cauliflower Plants*.—These may now be planted; they are fond of rich soil; liquid manure has a most astonishing effect on them, during their growth. Every artizan, and in fact every cultivator of a garden, ought to take care of the soap-suds, urine, &c. &c. made in his house, for the express purpose of applying to these and similar plants. Seed should be sown in warm situations, the beginning of the month; and if well attended to, will be ready for use in August.

Towards the end of the month, sow *Early Dutch Turnip*, and the variety called *Snowball* (a handsome good sort), for succession.

*Potatoes*.—Those who have not put in their kidney potatoes during last month, should do so now. Early-ripening potatoes do not appear so liable to the prevailing disease as later varieties. They may be planted in rows, about a foot and a half wide, and eight or nine inches in the rows. Stronger growing sorts, of course require more room.

*Celery*.—Prepare a bed of light vegetable soil, on which may be sown the seed for a main crop.

*Artichokes* are not much cultivated in small gardens. The sort called *Jerusalem* has rough-looking tubers, somewhat like potatoes. They are liked by some people, and in the event of the continued failure of the potato, it will perhaps be worth while to give

them a more extended trial, as a substitute (though a poor one) for that useful root. They may be cut in sets, or planted whole, in rows, three feet apart. The tops will rise six to eight feet high, in good soil. There is also another variety of artichoke, producing large scaly heads, which is the part eaten. These are neither fit nor profitable for small gardens; but where there is room, rooted slips, or crowns, may now be planted out, a yard apart.

*Parisips* may be sown the early part of the month, in drills, eighteen inches apart.

*Leeks*.—Sow in drills, eighteen inches apart.

*Onions*.—The main crops should not now be delayed. Deptford, Globe, and White Spanish, or Portugal, are the best sorts; the two former keeping well, the latter being mildest.

*Mint-beds* may be made; *nasturtians* sown, the seeds of which make an excellent pickle, with but little trouble.

## FLOWER GARDEN.

Where there is the convenience of a greenhouse, or large frame, of course plants have been saved for putting out in the borders, in May; if there is not a sufficiency of autumn-struck ones, the cuttings should now be put in.

*Ranunculuses and Anemones*.—If the weather permit, these should be planted forthwith.

*Carnations* which have been kept in frames, should be well and constantly hardened, that they may be put into their blooming pots the latter end of this month, or early in April. Well-rotted turfy loam, with an equal proportion of very decayed horse-dung, and a small portion of wash sand, will grow them fine. As a matter of course, the compost must have been well mixed and turned, previous to using. Many florists are afraid of running the colours of their flowers by using soil which is too highly manured. As a general rule, *picotees* will bear stronger growing than *carnations*.

It is a good time now to sow *ranunculus* seed, if not done before. Pans or boxes should be filled with leaf-mould, which has been well sifted, and all worms and insects picked out; they should then be watered *well*, the night previous to sowing. The seed should be sprinkled rather thickly over the surface, and very slightly covered. If too much soil is put over them, they will not make their appearance.

Some seed of the most showy biennials (or plants which usually bloom the second summer, though under favourable circumstances, they will often flower the same season,) may now be sown. The varieties of *dicanthus*, *sweetwilliams*, *mule pinks*, *scabiouses*, &c. &c. should be got in without delay.

It often happens that the annual flowers of last year shed their seed, and strong healthy plants of *candy tuft*, *erysimums* (see article on annuals), &c. which have stood the winter, may now be transplanted; these will bloom early, and make stronger and more bushy plants than those produced by the spring-sowing.

All sorts of herbaceous plant seeds may be sown, such as *lupines*, *penstemons*, *campanulas*, &c. in sheltered borders, where possible.

*Auriculas* and *polyanthuses* kept in frames will require great attention as to watering and keeping clean. Give all air possible, at every opportunity; but as the trusses are now on the eve of starting, care must be taken that they are not checked by frost. *Mat the frames well at night*. Mice are apt to attack *polyanthuses*, and eat the hearts out; we need not tell our brother florists that "*prevention is better than cure*." In the case of slugs, which are sad pests, we would advise a plan which we have followed for years, with success: get a common flat tile, and place a small pebble, the size of a nut, under each corner; in the centre, beneath the tile, put a tablespoonful of fresh bran. Whether in the frames, or open border, this is an effectual decoy; for it appears that the

bran is so *palatable* that they will not leave it while any remains.

We have yet *tulips* to recommend to the especial care of our friends. It often happens in March, that after rain there is a sharp frost; should the leaves of the more forward *tulips* be expanding, care should be taken that the cavity formed by them does not remain filled with water, else, in the morning, a mass of ice (*no very agreeable thing for the embryo bloom*) will be found in the centre. How to get the moisture out is a question often asked. We should say, *blow it out*; for it is far better to be at that trouble than the blooms (for which all the care, expense, and anxiety has been hitherto experienced) should suffer. The enthusiastic cultivator does not object to a pilgrimage of this sort—going on all-fours round a tulip-bed, puffing at the rising plants with all his might, which would lead a person unacquainted with the delights of floriculture, to suppose he were *mad*. The uninitiated, however, cannot appreciate the feeling of satisfaction which the florist experiences, when he knows he has done his best for his favourite flower.

### ORCHARD AND FRUIT GARDEN.

If the pruning and thinning large trees have not been accomplished during the past winter, no time should be lost in finishing. As a general rule no boughs ought to cross each other, all cankered branches should be cut out, and it is always advisable to keep standard orchard trees thin in the centre, for the free circulation of air and light, which is so conducive to fine clear-skinned fruit.

Grafting may be performed the middle and latter end of this month, according to the season. Cherries, from their earliness, are usually *worked* first; then plums, apples, pears, &c.

Get all ground forked over between rows of currants, gooseberries, raspberries, &c. though it ought to have been done ere this.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## ON PERFECTION OF FORM IN THE TULIP.

BY MR. G. W. HARDY, WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

It is now about three hundred years since the tulip was first introduced into this country; and in consequence of the high estimation in which it has always been held, great attention has been paid to its improvement; not only in the purity of its ground colours, and the style of its coloured forms, or markings, but especially also in the symmetry of its outline and the general form of its cup or flower. No one now thinks of discussing the merits of any particular variety, without first describing its form; and the importance attached to it is abundantly testified by the influence it exercises over the censors' decisions at our public exhibitions.

We therefore should naturally conclude that the judgment of florists, on this point at least, had long been regulated by rules, founded on principles the correctness of which was universally admitted. But, strange to say, if we inquire "what constitutes perfection of form in the tulip?" we find the greatest diversity of opinion prevailing, even amongst the most experienced cultivators. In proof of this, it is not needful to adduce the various notions we hear expressed during our intercourse with amateurs and dealers. We have merely to examine the writings of those who are generally regarded as our best modern authorities on all subjects relating to this flower, to be fully convinced that great want of unanimity exists in reference to this point; and that the principles which ought to guide us are either not understood, or

only very imperfectly developed. Thus, for instance, Mr. Groom, of Walworth, considers a semi-oblate spheroid the best form; Mr. Glenney, of the *Gardener's Gazette*, has long been the advocate of one-third of a hollow ball; Mr. Slater, of Manchester, tells us he differs from both the preceding, and says that the half and the sixteenth part of a circle is the most perfect form; whilst Mr. Wood, of the Coppice Nursery, Nottingham, prefers the half of a hollow globe. These are the only modern authorities whose writings appear to me worthy of notice, in connexion with the subject under consideration; and amidst the conflicting opinions thus presented, we shall perhaps understand their merits better, and arrive more surely at the truth, if we examine them more minutely in detail.

In the *Florist's Journal*, for 1840, page 56, MR. GROOM states, that he "considers the shape of the cup of the greatest importance;" and says, "when fully expanded, it should be a semi-oblate spheroid:" by which he means, in plain English, a form about one-fifteenth part less than the half of a sphere, or hollow globe. He, however, assigns no reason why this form should be preferred to any other; and, singularly enough, annexes other conditions which entirely destroy the beauty of the outline he recommends.

"The pole" of this "semi-oblate spheroid," he says, "should be a little depressed;" and there should be "a little swell outwards towards the lower part of the petal, which will give the flower a good shoulder." This he considers "the best form to retain the beauty of the flower during all its stages." Tulips having this character may doubtless be found; but they are very unlike semi-oblate spheroids. Take, for example, Princess Sophia. Here we find "a good shoulder," as it is termed; but, as in almost every other specimen of this kind, the projection outwards being greatest in the three outer petals, the shape assumed is consequently somewhat triangular. Were the pro,

jection equal in every petal, the outline might be an irregular hexagon, but could not be circular. In both cases, the cavities thus formed in the interior of the flower, invariably produce a number of shadows, which give false tints to its colours. These are serious defects, and it is not probable that many florists will be inclined to accept Mr. Groom's irregularly shaped standard as that which presents to us the most beautiful outline for a tulip. I rather imagine, that if our attention were directed to a rainbow, and we were seriously told that the grandeur of its form would be increased by a depression in the centre of its arc, and a bulging out of its sides, after the manner of a man's shoulders, we should not have much respect for the taste thus manifested. Yet such is the deformity Mr. Groom would have us to regard as perfection in a tulip.

MR. SLATER'S opinions may be ascertained by referring to *Harrison's Floricultural Cabinet*, for 1842, page 146; where he says, "In form, I must beg leave to differ from Mr. Groom and Mr. Glenny, as not one tulip in two hundred comes up to their standard, even in the new varieties raised. If a circle were drawn, and divided into eight parts, taking full five-eighths of the diameter for the cup, will give the most perfect form. In support of this opinion, I have scaled several drawings, as well as tulips, which appear to me to be the most unique in their proportions, and I find the greater part exceed six-eighths of the diameter. Mr. Groom's Prince Albert, bizarre, is six-eighths; his bybloemen, Victoria Regina, and Polyphemus also, are six-eighths. This appears to be the true standard; for it is allowed by all that Polyphemus cannot be excelled as respects form." So that because Polyphemus "cannot be excelled" in form, and it measures in depth six-eighths of its diameter, this is the "true standard;" but that, nevertheless, that which is "*true*," must be regarded as *not true*; for the most perfect form, he assures us, is "full five-eighths." This is certainly

an odd mode of reasoning. But Mr. Slater is capricious; for at page 12 of his *Descriptive Catalogue*, published separately, in 1843, he describes his standard as consisting of "one-half and the sixteenth part" of a circle, or hollow globe; his "most perfect form" having been found in the meantime, I suppose, quite imperfect. Opinions thus hastily adopted, and as hastily relinquished, are scarcely worthy of notice; and I would merely observe in reference to them, that the more we add to the half-circle, the more imperfect does the form become; for if the additional portion preserve the true circular figure, the interior of the flower is obscured to a proportionate extent; or if it either reflex outwards, or rise at right angles with the horizon, the regularity of the outline is as certainly destroyed. Still, the quantity last added by Mr. Slater is so small, no strong objection could be urged against it, if he did not (like Mr. Groom) inconsistently append other conditions which alter the whole figure. Thus he says, "The cup of the flower should be composed of six thick fleshy petals, which should run out from the centre at first a little horizontally, and then turn upwards, forming almost a perfect cup with a round bottom, rather wider at the top." How a cup can be *round* in the bottom, and at the same time *horizontal*, Mr. Slater does not condescend to explain; and beyond these remarks it would be futile to follow him.

The next authority we shall consult is MR. GLENNY. In a long article, "On the Properties of the Tulip," in the *Gardener's Gazette*, for 1841, page 27, he gives the following as a rule "*laid down* by Mr. Heming, in 1832, and adopted by the Metropolitan Society, some time afterwards:"—

"The cup should form, when quite expanded, one-third of a hollow ball." In support of this form, he reasons thus, both in the place above cited and in the *Gardener and Practical Florist*, for 1843, page 152. "All fanciers know that the beauty of a tulip depends on the entire inside surface, for a blemish there

destroys it. They know too, that unless the entire inside surface can be seen at once, it must be seen under a disadvantage. It is clear then, that to be enabled to see all the inside at once, the top of the cup must be largest, and any turn inwards at the top of the cup would hide part of the beauty, and particularly of many feathered tulips, where the principal pencilling is near the top: we arrive thus easily at one point, namely, that the flower must expand enough to open the internal beauties to the spectator; and if there be more than one-third of the circle, it will not do this effectually. One moment's observation will convince; though one-third is perfect, half a ball would not be materially worse, but it would be worse, for the depth would be one objection. The consequent uprightness of the petals near the top would deprive us of the perfect sight of the feathering, and forms a second objection. If there be any more than half, say two-thirds, the tops would turn in, and the depth would be still greater; but it must be kept in mind that we speak of the form when expanded. The tulip which expands more must be flat and uninteresting; that which does not expand so much, is ineffective. As to whether the circle is better than the shoulder, or the elliptic, there cannot be two opinions after due consideration, for the circular sweep is more graceful than a shoulder, and shows the character far better (particularly towards the upper part of the petals,) than an elliptic, for the sides are not so upright."

I have quoted Mr. Glenny's opinions thus fully, because some of the principles here set forth are important to a satisfactory solution of our inquiry; and although his conclusions are not invariably well founded, yet the great attention he has evidently bestowed on the subject, and the zeal he has uniformly displayed in promoting the improvement of our taste for correct forms, entitle his observations to our attentive consideration.

It is now conceded on all hands that no tulip can

be perfect in form which does not expose the whole of its inner surface at a glance. Hence it follows that the shape of the cup must be circular in its outline; because every other form would throw more or less shadow over the surface, and thereby obscure the brilliancy of its colours. Other advantages will also be found in its superior gracefulness, and its more perfect accordance with the arrangement of the coloured markings. Strict attention to these two points is therefore very properly enjoined by Mr. Glenny. With regard however to what is the proportion of a circle which would constitute perfection, further consideration is requisite. His arguments against the perfection of the half-circle are by no means conclusive; and several facts, bearing strongly on the question, appear either to have been overlooked or not duly appreciated.

The tulip is a flower of simple construction, but remarkably well adapted to the display of those richly coloured forms with which nature has so liberally endowed it, and which render it so peculiarly attractive. These, in many of our best varieties, require a large surface for their full development. Hence size becomes an important accessory; and the superior advantage of the half-circle over the smaller one-third will at once be apparent, if we compare the relative sizes of the petals, in flowers of equal diameters at the opening or mouth, in both forms. In the half-circle, a flower of three and a half inches diameter would have its petals nearly half an inch longer than those in the lesser form, which is an important difference.

These brilliant forms, we should remember also, are not confined to the interior of the flower. They are rich and beautiful on the outside also. This is the property which chiefly gives splendour to a tulip bed; where, except for the purpose of ascertaining the peculiar merits of a variety, the inside is comparatively little seen. Even on the stage of an exhibition, it is not the inside alone which secures the prize.

A blemish on the outside, though not apparent within, is quite as prejudicial as if it were there situated. Indeed, in cold seasons, it often happens that the inside can scarcely be seen by the judges, and the character of the outside alone determines the relative merits of the whole collection. It is obvious, therefore, that the cup, or flower, ought to possess such a form as will enable us to see these external beauties fully displayed, as well as the internal. Here again the half-circle commends itself to our preference; for, in consequence of the more erect position and greater size of each petal, a much larger surface is presented to the eye, and feather and flame may both be seen at once; whilst if the form were only one-third of a circle, the latter would be comparatively small, and scarcely visible without turning up the underside; and the whole flower would have so mean and insignificant an appearance as barely to be deemed worthy of cultivation.

Mr. Glenny's objection to the half-circle, on account of its being too deep to reveal the internal beauties to the spectator, at a glance, is altogether groundless. Whoever will take the trouble to procure an accurately formed hemisphere, made either of copper or any other material, will immediately be convinced of its fallacy; and, after what has been said against it, will be surprised that it should appear so shallow. For that portion of it which meets the horizon at right angles is so small as scarcely to be discernible; and every part of the interior will be visible at once, without any shadow whatever, if it be turned properly to the light, and the eye brought in a line directly over the centre. There is no mistake about this; and the advantages of the half-circle, or globe, so greatly preponderate over those of every other form, that I have no hesitation in adopting it as the standard by which the form of every tulip ought to be tested. Of course I would not reject every tulip which has not this form; for until it prevails much more extensively than it now does, we cannot afford to discard such

varieties as Charles X., Shakspeare, Bienfait, Roi de Siam, Heroine, and Aglaia. These and many other even longer cupped flowers will, in all probability, continue to be admired as long as tulips exist. But in order that the relative merits of every variety may easily be ascertained, it is important to know in what perfection of form consists; and I believe it is only to be found in the half-circle, or hollow globe.

MR. WOOD evidently takes the same view of it; for in his description of the tulip, which appeared in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, for 1845, page 360, and which is highly creditable to his taste and judgment, he says, "I would have the shape of the cup approach as near as possible the half of a hollow globe; if a trifle more or less, I should not object to it, only requiring that when in its prime, the interior of the flower may be seen at a glance." Indeed Mr. Glenney himself seems more favourably disposed to the half-circle than he was; for in the *Gardener's Almanack*, for 1847, page 94, instead of condemning it as *worse* than the third of a globe, which he did in 1841 and 1843, he contends that "one-third to one-half a hollow ball is *alike good all through*;" and further says that "between these two extremes every shade is beautiful." It is clear, however, that in laying down a standard of form for our guidance, one which admits of so much latitude of judgment is highly objectionable; for one of two different proportions must be wrong. If one-third of a hollow ball be perfect, the farther we depart from that form, in either direction, the more imperfect will the proportion become; and one-half of a ball must, therefore, be as imperfect a form as that which is almost flat. It is not enough to say, that "one-third to one-half is alike good all through;" or that "between these two extremes every shade is beautiful." In defining correct forms, it is our duty not to confound that which is beautiful merely, with that which is perfect; and I believe it impossible to induce many to acknowledge the third of a hollow ball as the true standard of form for the



tulip. Indeed it is rather surprising Mr. Glenny should ever have required us to do so; for if we refer to the *Gardener and Practical Florist*, for 1843, page 4, he there distinctly tells us, in reply to the inquiry "*who ever expects to see a tulip like the third of a hollow ball?*" that "*the constitution of a tulip forbids it.*"

[To be continued.]



### ON EXHIBITING FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

As the time is fast approaching when the schedules of plants and flowers for the ensuing season are finally settled, I beg to ask your readers, particularly amateur florists, whether the system of showing in *pans* (I would rather substitute the word *collection* for this old-fashioned term) cannot undergo a revision?

I find, on reference to the *Floral Register* of by-gone years, that each pan of flowers must invariably consist of a certain number of blooms of a specified class; and if an exhibiter introduces into or omits from his pan a flower, contrary to the terms of his schedule, his collection is thrown out.

I would instance the case of a cultivator of the pink (a flower I am much attached to) exhibiting a collection of twelve or eighteen blooms, the terms of showing would be a certain number red-laced, purple-laced, and plain, or black and white ones. Now it might occur that this person had not a plain pink in his collection, in other words, that he did not cultivate that class of flowers, yet he was enabled to produce a superb collection of blooms; the consequences to him would be a refusal to place his flowers at the exhibition.

I also think the pans of carnations and picotees might be divided, and the present system abolished; I do think it is hardly right, when a prize is offered for the best pan of nine or twelve carnations,

to allow it to be composed of blooms from both classes of flowers, that is, five carnations and four picotees.

I believe it is usual in the south, for collections to consist of dissimilar blooms, without specifying of what class they shall be, whether, as regards the pink, of red or purple lace, and black and white; or as respects the carnation and picotee, whether of bizarres or flakes, or of light or heavy edged flowers.

The collections of dahlia blooms are open to the exhibiter, thus enabling him to stage his best flowers of any class.

I would therefore suggest that the pans or collections of the pink, carnation, and picotee, consist only of dissimilar blooms, and not be restricted to any particular class; and also that no unnamed seedling be admitted into a collection.

A TYRO.

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## PINKS.

H. S. M., in the first number of the *Midland Florist*, puts certain questions to us southern growers, respecting the alleged difference of opinion as to what constitutes perfection in this favourite flower.

This is a very proper subject for discussion, as it would show there is not so much difference between the prevailing taste here and in the north. We object equally to large confused flowers, as we do to those that are thin. We certainly have a partiality for a full flower, such as Ward's Great Britain, which *can* be produced, with its numerous tiers of well-regulated broad petals, showing distinctly the lacing of each to great advantage. Yet it appears H. S. M. has seen this flower; but we must caution him not to arrive at a hasty conclusion respecting the merits of such as were sent out in the autumn of 1845, as it is impossible to get a worse season than 1846, indepen-

dent of their often being bloomed under a disadvantage the first season.

Earl of Uxbridge, Brown's Eclipse, and Col. Baker are certainly faulty; White's Warden is not so confused, and is often useful. Jones's Huntsman and Duke of Northumberland have some fine properties, and are favourites here as well as in the north; but would not H. S. M. prefer a few more petals in each? this little addition would cause them to be thought much! more of here. Cant's Criterion is far superior to either, yet has the same fault; two more rows of petals would, in my opinion, make it the most perfect pink we have, the petal and lacing being unequalled; but as they at present stand, I must give the preference to Great Britain.

Has H. S. M. seen fair specimens of Brown's Garland and Hall's Queen of England; the former is a bad grower, but I think these two the nearest approach to the "happy medium" which it is evident all persons are aiming to obtain.

It appears that large full flowers are most approved in the midland counties and in the north, if the other properties are good. Now we cannot be expected to gain suddenly the much-desired *quality*, any more than the northern florists can produce *size*. As the pink is a little in the ascendant, I have no doubt but many of the present varieties will shortly be superseded by flowers combining quality and a sufficient number of petals.

A LONDON FLORIST.

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## NEW ISLE DE BOURBON ROSES,

SOLD OUT LAST AUTUMN (1846). ON THE CONTINENT.

WHETHER any of these have arrived in this country, we have not yet ascertained; but as our object is to give as early intimation as possible of novelties, we are induced to subjoin the annexed list of new Bourbon

roses. Many of this beautiful race are destitute of fragrance, which is a serious disappointment to the admirers of "The Rose." It appears, however, that some of them are highly scented, which will be a great incitement to their more extended culture. We doubt not that our English growers, as soon as they have bloomed them, will give full descriptions; in the interim, as we have received these remarks from a highly respectable foreign nurseryman, and one too *who knows a flower*, we do not hesitate to lay them before our readers.

*Beauti de Versailles*.—A large, well-proportioned, full flower, of a most brilliant and beautiful carmine; it blooms abundantly, and is highly scented. This fine variety was raised from seed, by M. Souchet. The former flowers originated by this gentleman have been peculiarly admired, particularly Charles Souchet, Souchet, and others named after his family.

*Charlemagne*.—A most vigorous sort, and at the same time remarkable for the singular variableness of the colours of its flowers, which are most beautifully shaped, like the camellia. Roses of various shades, from white to bright pink, are often seen in the same cluster. It is described as blooming most profusely, and being very handsome. It was raised by M. Dorisy.

*Cesarine Souchet*.—We well recollect, some years ago, being much amused with an observation by Mr. Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth, after returning from one of his early tours on the Continent. In the graphic description of foreign florists, gardens, &c. which was published in the *Gardener's Magazine*, he states, if our memory serves us right, that a purchaser might with safety buy a rose which was named after the better half of the raiser; for if it sometimes happened that "*the grey mare were the better horse*," the lady would take especial good care that her name was attached to a flower of first-rate excellence; and on the other hand, when the raiser had a great regard and respect for his wife, if he had one flower in his collection of greater merit than another, he, as a matter of course, had the most sincere pleasure in perpetuating the remembrance of her virtues in the most superb variety he possessed. This observation holds good in a remarkable degree; and all who know the merits of such flowers as Mesdames Laffay, Souchet, Plantier, Lacharme, &c. will at once see the force of the assertion. But we must return to Cesarine Souchet (a daughter, or niece possibly, of the gentleman who raised the variety bearing her name), and describe

it as a medium-sized rose, at its first expansion of a singularly transparent pink; as the flower ages, it assumes a much deeper colour at the back of the petals, and is very handsome.

*Duchesse de Normandie*.—This is a globular flower, full and high in the centre; the petals are well formed and imbricated. It is of a deep purplish rose colour, rather lighter in the middle, and is stated to be a beautiful and well marked variety. Originated from seed, by Messrs. Audin.

*Docteur Hardouin*.—Blossoms in large clusters of deep rose-coloured flowers. The margins of the petals are considerably lightest; the form and habit of the plant excellent. Raised by M. Ogez.

*Eugenie Guinoseau* (Guinoseau's).—The flowers are tolerably full, petals beautifully imbricated, of a charming deep carmine; flowers in large clusters.

*Leveson Gower* (Beluze).—Very large and full, similar in appearance to *Souvenir de la Malmaison*, in respect to form, but of a deep rose colour.

*Triomphe de la Duchere* (Beluze).—A finely formed and large flower, light rose, said to be a very elegant variety.

*Sydonie Dorisy* (Dorisy's).—A most abundant-blooming, strong-growing variety, well adapted for a pillar rose. The foliage is remarkably serrated, the flowers are rather above the medium size, of excellent form and perfume.

*Margat Jeune* (Souchet).—Blossoms in rather small bunches they are however highly scented, and of a brilliant deep amaranth colour.

We know of no variety amongst the now numerous sections into which roses are divided, that has a greater claim to our attention than the *family of Bourbons*. Blooming as freely as the Chinese, with foliage of greater substance and beauty, many of them partaking in a great degree of the characteristic traits of the *Noisettes*, in the size and number of their clusters of flowers, they excite the admiration of even the most stoical cultivator of the soil. For covering low walls or trellises, or for pillar roses, they are admirable; and we know of no greater ornament or shelter to a tulip bed, than to have a collection of these beautiful roses trained on the outside of the trellis which surrounds it: blooming during the summer and autumn, they relieve the nakedness which often prevails when the tulips are taken up. We recommend this hint to our friends.

## THE CHELLASTON SEEDLING TULIPS.

[Completed from page 45.]

- No. 59.—*Catherine*. Fine flamed rose, superior form, pure cup, finely marked. Broken into colour, from 116 breeder, in 1845.
- No. 60.—*Fair Maid*. Finely formed light flamed rose, having a slight stain at the lower part of the stamens. The breeder is unknown. Broken in 1842. A good fourth row flower.
- No. 61.—*Queen of Scarlets*. This variety is of good form and pure cup, and is, as its name indicates, a highly coloured flamed rose. Rectified in 1844. The breeder is unknown.
- No. 27.—*Mary Queen of Scots*. A fourth row dark flamed rose, the cup and form good. The breeder is not ascertained. Broke in 1844.
- No. 79.—*Nonpareil*. Good cup and bottom; the bloom is very large, it rises high, and makes a fine fourth row flower. Broke in 1846, from a breeder of the same number.
- No. 10.—*Princess Augusta*. A fine flamed rose, approaching bright scarlet, good form and pure cup. The breeder is unknown. Broke in 1846.
- No. 67.—*Duchess of Sutherland*. Fine feathered bybloemen, having a rosy shade; is a flower of first-rate form, with great purity of cup. Breaks from a breeder having the same number. Rectified in 1843.
- No. 68.—*Model of Perfection*. Fine feathered bybloemen, breaks from No. 81 breeder. Superior form and pure cup. Broke in 1842.
- No. 78.—*Queen of Violets*. Finely flamed bybloemen, marks in fine style, and has a pure cup, of good form. Rectified in 1843.
- No. 80.—*Venus*. A fine violet-flamed bybloemen, of superior form and purity. It is supposed to break from No. 20 breeder, and Mr. Gibbons thinks it to be similar to Admirable, though not quite certain on that point.
- No. 82.—*Sir Henry Pottinger*. A very large and finely-formed feathered bybloemen. It has, however, a slight shade round the lower part of the stamens. Broke in 1843, from No. 71 breeder.
- No. 84.—*Prince Albert*. A fine dark flamed bybloemen, much in the style of Grace Darling, but not quite so large a cup; is very steady, and marks in good style. Broke in 1843, from No. 52 breeder.
- No. 85.—*Captain Sleigh*. A flamed bizarre, of very good properties. Broke in 1842, from No. 3 breeder.
- No. 90.—*Criterion*. This variety marks remarkably well, and has a good cup, with a very transparent base. Broke in 1843, from No. 48 breeder.
- No. 99.—*Lady Leicester*. A dark cherry-coloured flamed rose, superior form, and pure cup, similar to Lady Stanley. Broke in 1841, from No. 99 breeder.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

THE following strawberries have been originated on the Continent; and from information we have received, will be worthy the attention of cultivators of this favourite fruit.

*Princesse Royale* (Pelvilain).—A most excellent variety, well adapted for forcing. The fruit is large, long, and handsome; it is extremely prolific, and of pale rosy red.

*Comte de Paris* (Pelvilain).—This is a large globular fruit, a very abundant bearer, ripening later in the season than most others. The fruit is red, with a rich tinge of yellow, and is very handsome.

*Le Leigdisé* (Hacquín).—A very early variety, partaking in this respect of the character of one of its parents, the Roseberry, ripening a week or ten days earlier than Princess Alice Maud or Keen's Seedling. The fruit is long and handsome, the colour dark red, and it is a most abundant bearer.

**LOUISE BONNE PEAR**—The Louise Bonne, of Jersey, cultivated by Mr. Rivers, is, he says, the Louise Bonne d'Avranches of the French, and superior to that usually known by the name. Whether the above be that alluded to, we cannot determine, it is, however, of excellent quality, and, doubtless, the one so called by John de la Quintince, Director General of the Gardens of Louis XIV. of France. The Louise Bonne, when well grown, is a handsome table fruit, possessing more freshness of appearance, from its red and green tints, than the generality of pears which are met with in the dessert at the latter

part of the year. Its eye and stem, as shewn by the engraving (in the *Botanic Garden*, for Feb. 1847), are in very shallow depressions, and its form is altogether regular and even. Its surface is perfectly smooth, and when gathered, is clear green, well coloured with brownish red on the exposed side, and finely speckled all over. When fully matured, its green tint becomes much softened by yellow, and its flesh juicy, melting, sugary, and of very pleasant flavour. The tree succeeds perfectly as a standard, and is exceedingly prolific. Grafted on quince stocks, for dwarfs, it may be kept to any size; and by those who possess but a flower garden, may be planted in situations where, being kept subservient to the general features of the parterre, it would increase its beauty and interest, and the ultimate gratification afforded by its fruit we need not mention. It should be recollected, that by transplanting and root-pruning, on which subjects we have already treated, and thereon shall give further instructions, these dwarf trees may be kept to any size required. Cutting away the branches of a tree, to reduce its size, is but a temporary mitigation of the effect, regardless of the cause. The roots are the source of extension, these, therefore, demand the first consideration.—*Maund's Botanic Garden.*

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## GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**CHRYSANTHEMUM.—TEMPLE DE SOLOMON.**—This is a most beautiful new variety, very large and double, of a bright golden yellow; it bears a profusion of flowers, either in the greenhouse or open border, trained to a wall.

**HELIOTROPUM VOLTARIANUM.**—Most cultivators of small gardens and window plants, know the sweet and peculiarly odoriferous plant "The Heliotrope."



Certainly as far as appearances go it has not much to recommend it; but under its homely garb and coarse exterior, it carries excellencies which make it a general favourite, and we are sure that any improvement on this old and esteemed plant will be hailed with pleasure. This new variety bears very large trusses of flowers, which are somewhat similar to those of the old plant, though deeper and brighter, being a fine violet blue, with a white centre. Its perfume is beautiful.

### CUCUMBERS.

WE give a list of the most approved sorts in cultivation, which we trust will be satisfactory to those of our friends who have lately made inquiries on this subject:—

<i>Black Spine</i> (Patrick's)	<i>Sion House</i>
————— (Cuthill's Improved)	<i>Victory of England</i> (Salter's)
————— (Stone's)	<i>Wonderful</i> (Edwards's)
————— (Elliott's Improv.)	<i>Wonder</i> (Mills's Hybrid)
<i>Infant</i> (Spencer's)	<i>White Spine</i> (Manchester Improved)
<i>Jewess</i> (Mills's)	<i>Victory of Bath</i>
<i>Hothouse</i> (Kenyon's)	<i>Man of Kent</i> (Barnes's)
<i>Roman Emperor</i>	<i>Ringleader</i> (Stewart's)

### NEW DAHLIAS.

*Brown's Captivation*.—Crimson puce, very beautifully shaded.

*Hon. Mrs. Herbert*.—A flower of extra fine form, pale salmon.

*Collinson's Andromeda*.—A new colour, amber, beautifully tipped with lilac, of extra fine form, and extremely beautiful.

*Keyne's Lady of the Lake*.—This variety is said to be one of the finest edged dahlias in cultivation, the ground colour is pure white, laced with bright pink. It gained numerous first prizes in 1846.

*Keyne's Yellow Standard*.—Of splendid colour and form, and is held in high estimation.

*Turner's Berryer*.—Of first-rate form, and the darkest dahlia in cultivation. A great acquisition.

*Turner's Scarlet Gem*.—A first-rate flower in a scarce class, beautiful in form, and bright in colour.

*Turner's Louis Philippe*.—This is said to be similar in colour to some others in cultivation, but it is a constant and splendid show flower of a deep crimson.

*Jeffrey's Master George Clayton*.—A most beautiful fancy flower, pure white, distinctly margined with a broad band of crimson purple.

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## NEW RHODODENDRONS.

FEW hardy plants claim more attention than the whole tribe of the rosebays, or rhododendrons, from the circumstance of their not only being beautiful evergreen shrubs or small trees, with magnificent foliage, and producing large trusses of flowers the most lovely imaginable, varying from pure white to yellow, and all the intermediate tints of pale pink to dark crimson and deep purple, but the majority being hardy and of easy management, render them peculiarly adapted for a more extended cultivation.

We recollect some years ago being at Coleorton Hall (the seat of Sir G. Beaumont, Bart.) near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and were then forcibly struck with the splendid appearance of large masses of rhododendrons in full perfection of bloom: they appeared to be chiefly seedlings from *R. pontica* and *rosea*. Since then, many fine sorts have been raised by hybridizing, with the gorgeous scarlet and crimson varieties from the Himalaya mountains.

We are favoured by an extensive midland nurseryman, with the following descriptive list of new varieties:—

*Rhododendron Candidissima punctata*.—This variety throws fine trusses of flowers, white, spotted with crimson, above the foliage.

*R. Delicata*.—Flowers of a delicate blush, shaded or striped with a deeper colour, a very compact and attractive sort.

- R. Elegans*.—Dark rich crimson, spotted with black, fine round bold flower.
- R. Exquisita*.—French white, delicately tinted with pink, very splendid and showy.
- R. Gloria mundi*.—Fine rose when first expanded, fading to a white ground, shaded with rose and spotted with black.
- R. Lavinia*.—Pure white, with a rich crimson stripe down the back of each petal.
- R. Præstans*.—Changes from salmon colour to white, producing trusses of both colours on the plant at the same time.
- R. Splendens*.—White, delicately shaded with pink.
- R. Striata*.—White, beautifully shaded and striped with crimson.
- R. Jacksonii*.—Delicate spotted rose colour, with a white blotch at each division of the corolla.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

WE have been repeatedly solicited to give the names of a dozen good, cheap, and showy herbaceous plants; and as our readers at Leicester, who have gardens in the Freeman's Piece, are anxious to be informed on this subject, that they may begin with good things at first, we subjoin a list of what we are sure will not disappoint them, or any one else, who will grow them.

- Delphinium Barlowii*.—Semi-double dark purple, a profuse bloomer, often flowering again in the autumn, will grow from three to four feet. This is a hybrid variety of larkspur, raised some years ago in the neighbourhood of Manchester, by a person named Barlow.
- Phlox speciosissima*.—This is rather tall, getting up to three or four feet, but it is a most beautiful sort, deep pink, with a lighter eye, tolerably round petals, and blooming in immense large heads of compact flowers.
- Enothera splendens*. (Splendid *Enothera*.)—A handsome yellow-flowering plant, rising about two feet high, with good dark green foliage; the flowers form a mass, and continue in bloom for a long period.
- Phlox Plantii*.—This is a most desirable sort, with large, flat, well shaped white flowers, of snowy purity, forming compact heads, and continuing late in bloom. Height, eighteen inches to two feet.
- Lythrum superbum*.—Extremely showy, branching out with spikes of deep pink flowers, rising three to four feet.

- Aconitum versicolor major*. (Large-flowering Variegated Aconitum.)—A decided improvement on the old variety; the spikes of blue and white helmet-shaped flowers are compact and large; very attractive. Three to four feet, but very erect, and may be kept in a small compass.
- Pentstemon splendens*. (Showy Pentstemon.)—A good thing, with deep scarlet tubular flowers, blooming profusely and in long continuance. One foot to eighteen inches.
- Spiræa Japonica*. (Japanese Spiræa.)—A plant of great beauty, with upright pure white feathery flowers, and deep green shining ash-like leaves; it grows about a foot high, and is well worthy of cultivation.
- Spiræa venustus*. (Beautiful Meadow-sweet.)—Rather taller than the preceding, with flowers of a delicate pink, and beautiful also in its foliage.
- Lilium longiflorum*. (Long-flowered Lily.)—A most desirable sort, dwarf in its growth, bearing long snow-white blossoms, which are produced horizontally from the top of the stem.
- Liatris speciosa*. (Showy Liatris.)—A plant of rather humble growth, not exceeding eighteen inches in height, throwing up spikes of pink flowers, continuing a long time in bloom, and well calculated for small gardens.
- Phlox Van Houtii*.—A beautiful variety of this popular tribe of plants. It was introduced into this country by the nurseryman, of Ghent, whose specific name it bears. It is a decided stripe, white ground, with pink or dark lavender stripes, in the way of a flake carnation. It may now be obtained at a moderate price, and no garden should be without it.
- Campanula rotundifolia elegans*. (Round-leaved Bell-flower.)—This is a greatly improved variety of a well known British plant, blooming from June to August. It forms a large mass of elegant blue bells, and will be a favourite wherever grown.
- 

**TREE MIGNIONETTE**.—To obtain this to bloom during winter, a few plants should be raised during the early part of the summer, and grown singly in pots with care, in a frame where they can have the full influence of the sun; they must be repotted as is found necessary, in a free open compost of sandy loam and leaf mould; and all the flower heads that appear during summer, must be removed. In winter, they must be removed to a greenhouse, and will then produce plenty of blossom.—*Annals of Horticulture*.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

—◆—  
HOLLYHOCKS.

ACCORDING to promise, I have sent you the names of the best twenty-four hollyhocks that I saw exhibited last season, all of which are first-rate, and will be found well worthy of cultivation by any one who may be fortunate enough to get plants of them. The following are the notes I took of them when in flower.

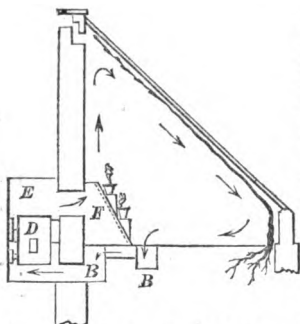
## A FLORIST.

- Duchess of Roxburgh* (Pow).—Dark lilac, with white edge, good.  
*Superb* (Brown).—Dark maroon, very fine.  
*Brilliant* (Veitch).—Light scarlet, rather large guard petal, but otherwise very fine and showy.  
*La Polka* (Veitch).—Pure white, good form, fine.  
*Duchess of Buccleuch* (Downie).—French white, fine form, good.  
*Bridesmaid* (Downie).—Clear white, good formed petal, fine.  
*Sir Walter Scott* (Downie).—Bright puce colour, high centre, and perfect outline, one of the best of its class.  
*Napoleon* (Downie).—Dark scarlet, large, and very fine.  
*General Robertson* (Downie).—Vivid scarlet, first-rate.  
*Miss Russell* (Downie).—Light rosy pink, first-rate.  
*Firebrand* (Downie).—Light ruby scarlet, very pretty.  
*Mrs. Keay* (Downie).—Delicate peach, new colour, good form, fine.  
*Mrs. Richardson* (Downie).—Deep rose, fine guard petal, early flower, fine.  
*Snowball* (Downie).—Very large white, very showy.  
*Rob Roy* (Downie).—Dark red, large and very fine.  
*Scarlet Perfection* (Falconer).—Very large dark scarlet, rather loose, but remarkably showy on the plant.  
*Crimson Perfection* (Foulis).—Dark crimson, first-rate.  
*Black Prince* (Foulis).—Black, very fine.  
*Fulgens* (Foulis).—Light rosy scarlet, good.  
*Nymph* (Foulis).—Peach, finely-formed petal, fine.  
*President* (Foulis).—Light ruby, good centre, fine.  
*Duke of Wellington* (Foulis).—Large red, good.  
*Enchantress*.—Yellow, fine.  
*Splendidum* (Kelly).—Dark crimson, very fine.

*Gardener's and Land Steward's Journal.*

## POLMAISE SYSTEM OF HEATING.

FROM JOHNSON'S GARDENER'S ALMANACK.



MR. MURRAY, the gardener at Polmaise, deserves great thanks from horticulturists, for the publication of his cheap mode of heating hothouses. His system is the adaptation of long known scientific facts to a useful purpose,—and its success, like that of Mr. Rendle's system, depends upon the constant circulation of a heated fluid rising as it is heated, and sinking down as it cools, to be heated again. The difference is, that Mr. Murray's fluid is

the atmospheric air of the house, and Mr. Rendle's is water. The great merit of using air is, that it does not require an expensive tank or arrangement of pipes. In the above sketch of a lean-to house, B is the drain or under-ground flue, conducting the cooled air to the heating-stove D; E is the warm air chamber; F a woollen cloth or blanket fastened over the orifice admitting the warmed air into the house. This blanket is kept moist by means of skeins of worsted, having one of their ends dipping in water, and the other end touching the blanket. The arrows show the currents of rising and descending air. But this has since been much improved upon, and the following, erected by Mr. Meeks, is the most perfect hitherto promulgated. The furnace, bricks, &c. cost less than £19, and there is no doubt that no expense was spared in this model erection. We are indebted to the *Gardener's Chronicle* for the following plans and details.

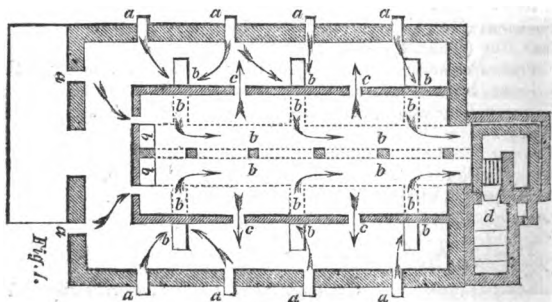
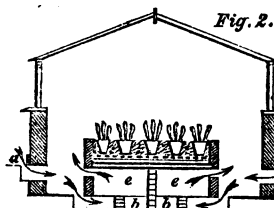


Fig. 1. Plan of house, showing cold air entrances, cold air drains, hot air chamber, and entrances for air into the house, with furnace, chimney, and direction of currents. *a, a*, cold air entrances, covered at pleasure with a horizontal lid outside the house; *b, b*, cold air drains, covered at pleasure with sliding covers made of slate; *c, c*, entrances for hot air into the house,



which may likewise be covered at pleasure with doors sliding along the face of the pit; *d*, the furnace.

Fig. 2. Section of house, showing bottom heat chamber, cold air drains, and direction of the currents. *a*, entrance for cold air; *b*, cold air drains; *e*, bottom heat chamber.

0 6 12 18 24 Scale of Feet.

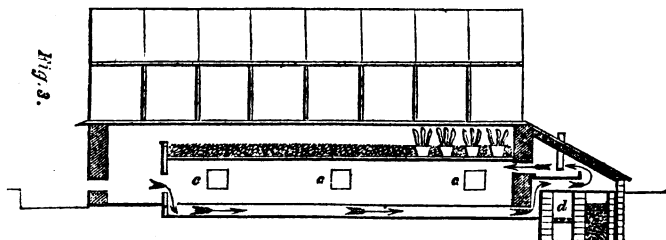


Fig. 3. Longitudinal section of house, showing hot air chamber, furnace built of Stourbridge brick, and surrounded with two inches of sand, and covered over with a half-inch iron plate, in three widths; the cistern is made of iron, four inches deep, in two divisions, and fed through a pipe from above; the roof has a cavity to be filled with sawdust, to prevent the escape of heat. *c*, entrance for hot air; *d*, furnace.

The entrances, *a a*, have lids fitted to them, for regulating the admission of cold air. Mr. Meek advises neither the chimney or flue to pass through the house, nor the fire-place to be within it.

**SCARLET GERANIUMS.**—The following varieties comprise some of the best sorts in cultivation :—

Prizefighter (!)  
Queen  
Mrs. Mayler  
King of Scarlets

Huntsman  
Honeymoon  
Goliath  
Shrubland

Tom Thumb  
Victoria  
Vivid  
Comet

## DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF SHOW AURICULAS.

BY A NORTHERN AMATEUR.

## GREEN EDGED.

*Lee's Colonel Taylor* is a flower of great merit, and much admired, although sadly defective in many properties; the tube is good, the paste is round, but deficient in quality and density; the ground colour dark violet, very circular, but frequently narrow; the green is bright, and the pip is too starry. This flower requires heat to open well; it makes a very handsome plant, and is also a free bloomer, and trusses well.

*Booth's Freedom* has a good tube, the thrum is rather close, the paste fine in quality, but not circular; the ground colour very dark, and a rich-looking edge. Freedom is not a free grower, the plant is of a sickly appearance, and a very shy trusser, the pips are very apt to fold back when the least exposed to heat.

*Page's Champion*.—Fine tube and paste, ground colour rather broad, a brownish crimson, the green vivid and fine, pips round and flat; the pip frequently cracks through the paste. Champion, in its best style, it worthy of its name. The plant is of small habit but a fine trusser.

*Bailey's Clapton Hero*.—Tube round, but large, fine paste, ground colour crimson, very circular, edge of a very light green, pip round and flat. The Hero must not be exposed to the sun, as its edge is very delicate.

*Scretter's Emperor Alexander*.—Tube round, fine dense paste, ground colour dark brown, edged light green, pip round and flat. This is a very correct flower, but difficult to be got into style for staging, as the edge runs on the least exposure.

*Hedge's Britannia*.—Fine tube, well filled with anthers, paste very fine, ground colour very rich violet, rather broad; the edge is frequently of a nondescript colour, neither green nor grey; the pip is very round and flat. This variety has a splendid appearance on a stage, but is not often seen in a show for competition.

*Smith's Waterloo*.—Tube round, the paste is not fine although round, ground colour dark brown, and regular, edge of a light green, pips flat, but too starry (or pointed). This variety makes a fine plant, and a good trusser. It has the same fault as Alexander, in not keeping well.

*Dormand's Don Pedro*.—Fine tube, paste rather angular, ground colour rich violet, too broad, pip round and flat.

*Oliver's Lady Ann Wilbraham*.—Good tube and paste, ground colour regular, edge of a fine green, pip rather pointed.

*Hudson's Apollo*.—Good tube, paste fine, ground colour rich violet, very even in the circle, pip round and flat, although small. This is a new variety, and promises to be a favourite.



*Dickson's Matilda*.—Tube round, but pale in colour, paste round and the finest I have seen in an auricula, ground colour crimson violet, very even and circular, light green edge, pip remarkably round and flat. This is a new variety, and promises, when a little more plentiful, to rank above most of the old favourites.

*Hepworth's Robin Hood*.—Tube and paste good, ground colour black, rather narrow, edge of a lively green. It makes a small plant, but carries a fine truss. When in its best state, this is a very good flower.

*Lightbody's Star of Bethlehem*.—Tube good, but large, ground colour rich violet, and apt to strike through to the edge, green, fine, pip large, round and mossy. This variety has a remarkably handsome appearance on a stage, from its enormous truss and vigorous growth.

*Dickson's Earl Stanhope*.—Tube fine, rather large, ground colour broad and of a fine rich violet, fine paste, pip very large, but pointed. This is a new variety, also raised by Mr. James Dickson, of Acre-lane, Brixton, near London.

*Dickson's Earl Grey*.—Tube good, rather watery, paste fine, ground colour rich violet, slightly shaded, pip large and flat.

*Gardener's Gazette.*



## ON PLANTING DAHLIAS.

FROM "PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF THE DAHLIA," BY MR. C. TURNER, CHALVEY, NEAR WINDSOR.

THE ground having been well turned or thrown up in ridges during the winter, levelled when in a dry state, late in March, or early in April, and well dug previous to planting, I proceed to mark the distance; which should be six feet from row to row, and five feet six in the rows. This will not be found too much; as large flowers can never be produced, if the plants once become drawn. A few spits of light rich soil, well mixed in the spot where the plants are about to be placed, will cause them to take hold and be established in much less time; and if the ground is poor, the same quantity of rotten manure mixed in underneath, will also be of great benefit.

The last week in May, or the first week in June, is the proper time to commence planting. Select those plants that are short, stout, and fast swelling;

and avoid those that have stood too long in the pots, and have become stunted in the points and hard in the leg. If such cannot be avoided, it would be a saving of time to repot and place them in a brisk heat. I would recommend also, that the young plants should be repotted, as soon as received from the nursery, into four-inch pots, and placed in a cold frame, free from slugs; and to be kept growing, though slowly, giving all the air possible in fine weather, so that the stems of the plants may be of a dark green colour, and of healthy appearance. Green fly should not be allowed to exist amongst them. By attending to these simple means, it is easy to lay the foundation of future success, which cannot be obtained with bad plants.

Stake them at once with one large stake, to be permanent, and secure the plant with a strong piece of bass, sufficiently loose to allow the stem to swell. Add two small stakes, at right angles, to which the plant must also be secured. This will keep it in a firm position during the worst weather.

Add large stakes as the plant advances, and keep the side branches secured. In this particular there is generally some neglect; by deferring the tying till it can be done all at once, an unexpected high wind may strip the plant of half its branches.

I must strongly impress on those who wish to obtain fine large flowers, the importance of tying the branches "out," not up in a bunch, like a wheat sheaf, which is too often the case; as it is essential that the sun and air should circulate freely through the plant as well as around it.

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**MILDEW IN PANSIES.**—Nothing is more easy than to prevent this. We have had mildew amongst ours, and yet we have a fine stock again in autumn, merely by attending to this simple plan,—that as soon as we can get a side-shoot in the spring, long enough for a cutting, we put it in a shady border, or round the edge of a pot, plunging the pot in the earth up to the

rim, which keeps them from drying suddenly, which is fatal to cuttings; therefore, when you have a few in each variety in this way, should the old plants die, the loss is not so great, as the mildew will not attack young growing plants. Good healthy cuttings should be taken at all seasons whenever they can be got; the hotter the weather the more difficulty in striking, but you had better lose half your cuttings than wait until the weather is colder, and then find that your best varieties are dead. This is the way with amateurs, they wait, thinking to part their roots into a sufficient number of plants, in the autumn, for the next year's growth, when, should they have survived, they will be so unhealthy as to be useless. There is only this one thing to keep in mind, keep a stock of young plants; for those first struck, when planted out, will have cuttings long enough to put in in a few weeks.—C. Turner, Chalvey.

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### Part III.

## REVIEW.

THE PRACTICAL GARDENER AND MODERN HORTICULTURIST. By Charles M'Intosh, C.M.C.H.S., of Dalkeith Palace. London: Thomas Kelly.

WE notice with much pleasure the appearance of "*a new and improved edition*" of this well known and extremely useful work. The author, in his preface, informs us that "the work has been re-written, a task which was not accomplished without great labour and expense." But while he "has been anxious to explain all the recent discoveries and improvements in practice, he has carefully avoided unnecessary alterations, that the present edition may be presented to the public at a cost which will not exceed the means of any who are interested in the progress of hor-

ticulture." Our space will not admit of a lengthened extract, but we are sure the following information will be acceptable to our readers; as all amateurs who have gardens near streams, for instance, those bordering on the river Leen, on the verge of Nottingham Park, might profit by the hint.

"In deep sandy soils, rendered rich by manure, and according to general opinion upon a dry subsoil, asparagus has been cultivated also with great success. Cold, wet, strong clays are less congenial to this plant, although in some instances we have observed excellent crops of it, particularly when such soils rested on a chalky subsoil. It is cultivated of a large size at Augsburgh, on the banks of the Danube, where the soil is a calcareous sand, three or four feet deep, and the subsoil always saturated with water. 'We were informed,' says Mr. Loudon, in *Encyclopedia of Gardening*, new edition, p. 848, 'by M. Oscar Le Clerc, whom we consider one of the most scientific gardeners on the Continent, that the largest asparagus in France was grown on a small sandy island in the Oise, where the surface of the sand was not more than two feet above the level of the water.' Mr. Forster, a gardener at Winchester, whose ground is liable to inundations during winter, asserts that his asparagus is not only improved in size, but also that it is a month earlier than that cultivated in dry beds, in the ordinary manner. This circumstance is, we think, not generally known. Of the success of Mr. Forster, in procuring fine and early asparagus, in his garden, at Winchester, we can speak from ocular demonstration, and we find also the testimony of Mr. Cuthill, in a communication to the *Gardener's Magazine*, vol. 12, p. 597, to the same effect. His words are, 'I believe it has been proved that asparagus likes as much moisture as can well be given it; and of course the more dung the more moisture. The best asparagus I have ever seen,' he continues, 'was at Mr. Bird's, a market gardener, at Ipswich, where the beds were under water nearly all the winter, and he always cut asparagus sooner than his neighbours.' The great success of the gardeners on the banks of the Thames, in the production of this vegetable, may perhaps be, to a considerable extent, attributed to a sort of perpetual subterranean irrigation, by the ebbing and flowing of the tide in the river, and also by the rapid rising and falling of the river, in times of heavy rains.

"Be this as it may, one thing is certain, that in no part of Britain is asparagus produced, even where the greatest care has been taken in the formation of beds, equal to that produced over hundreds of acres on the banks of the Thames.

"It is evident that a deep, moist, and rich soil is required for asparagus."

## QUERIES.

I have several pots of *Lilium lancifolium*, which I have lately purchased; they are in a comparatively dormant state; can I, with safety, apply liquid manure to them? J. S.

I have an arbour, or trellis-work in front of my summer-house, over which I wish to train some climbing roses; I should be glad if you would give me a list of a few in the April number of your excellent work. I am aware it is getting late, but the season is not yet, I hope, too far advanced to transplant them, and I am anxious to save a season. Perhaps you will favour me with the names of a few you can recommend.

JANE.

[Amongst climbing roses, we know of none better suited for our fair correspondent's purpose than the following:—

*Sempervirens*.—The Garland and Felicité perpetuel.

*Noisettes*.—Felleberg, La Biche, and La Marque.

*Ayrshire*.—Ruga and Dundee Rambler.

*Boursault*.—Elegans.]

Is there any sort of beehive preferable to the old straw hive? I would rather not kill my bees next autumn. If some of your correspondents would give a little information on this subject, they would greatly oblige A LACEMAKER.

What are the names of the best herbaceous pæonies? I understand much improvement has taken place in these plants, of late years. Would they grow on the margins of shrubberies?

R. HINTON.

Has Mr. Wood ever seen fine specimens of Brown's Salvator Rosa, and Julia Romano tulips? If he have, he would not look on the Chellaston Seedlings with much favour.

A LONDON FLORIST.

[We have now grown Salvator Rosa two seasons, and believe it to be correct; in fact, coming as it did from a most honourable florist, we entertain no doubt on the matter: but this we must say, that if it were a fair specimen of the flower, it was infinitely inferior to several of the Chellaston tulips which we could name. We fear, however, that there will be considerable disappointment in these seedlings, next blooming season; for ALL cannot come good, and from the quantity sold, there is sure to be, in the common course of things, many inferior flowers. But we have no hesitation in saying that the fine strains will be found second to none in cultivation.]

How would it answer to have tulip meetings at Derby, Manchester, and Leeds alternately? Such an arrangement would make the meetings attractive, and I believe popular also, if the services of competent judges were secured.

A LANCASHIRE FLORIST.

Will it not injure auricula plants to let them go to seed?—If some of your correspondents would give an article on the time of sowing hyacinth seed, and the treatment of the seedlings, it would be esteemed a great favour by yours, &c.

AMATEUR FLORUM.

You will perhaps smile at the simplicity of my question; I would gladly know how to make mistletoe grow in my garden. I have an old worn out apple tree that I do not wish to remove, and am anxious in some way or other to create an interest in it. If I could get several bushes of this parasite to grow on it, I should feel greatly pleased. Perhaps yourself, or some of your readers, will give me information on the subject. HERBERT.

Allow me to ask, through the medium of the *Midland Florist*, how it is that the Balsam is not more extensively cultivated in this part of the country? In some parts, I see by the floricultural returns, it is made a show flower of. If there are any growers in this neighbourhood, I should like to ask what is the best mode of growing it. It appears to be entirely lost sight of about here. I hope this hint will induce some of our aspiring amateurs to try their skill; I am fully persuaded there is yet great improvement to be made. If you are of opinion that the flower is worthy of patronage, I shall feel obliged by the insertion of this in your next number.

A SINCERE FRIEND.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. X.—Your peas are known here as the Waterloo; but as all peas with coloured blooms boil more or less brown, we do not therefore recommend them. The best pea that boils brown is the American Marrow, a much larger sort than the Waterloo, and nearly approaching the richness of marrow peas in general.

The Dove Bank Plum was raised from seed by the late Mr. Stafford, when gardener at Doveridge, the seat of Lord Waterpark, near Uttoxeter.—CONDUCTOR.

Great Britain and George Glenny Pinks have more than six rows of petals, and show their lacing as well as some I have received from the north with only five petals.

A LONDON FLORIST.

Our *Snenton friend*, who is so sadly annoyed by rabbits, should occasionally sow soot over his plants; this will be found a great preventive, as they will not touch plants so sprinkled, whilst food of any other description is to be obtained.

**A YOUNG FORESTER.**—The Maidenhair tree is the *Salisburea adianthifolia*, remarkable for its singular foliage. The Umbrella tree is the *Magnolia tripetala*, a fine and handsome foliaged plant. The Tooth-ache tree is the *Zanthoxylum*, of which perhaps the most common is the *fraxineum*, or ash-leaved. They are all deciduous, and natives of North America, perfectly hardy in this country, and easily procurable from any respectable nurseryman. The two former are trees, and the latter a low growing shrub.

**DAHLIAS.**—J. B. being desirous of growing a few of the best, he will find the following superior show flowers, with constancy combined. Yet many very fine flowers must be omitted, in giving the names of so limited a number as twenty, and at the same time preserving a sufficient variety.

A LONDON FLORIST.

*Admiral Stopford* (Trenfield).—Dark.  
*Beeswing* (Sainsbury).—Ruby crimson.  
*Berryer* (Turner).—Black.  
*Bertha Von Gena* (Koek).—Pale orange.  
*Biondetta* (Paragot).—Salmon.  
*Cleopatra* (Attwell).—Pale yellow.  
*Goldfinder* (Bushell).—Gold yellow.  
*Golden Fleece* (Pearce).—Orange buff.  
*Lady St. Maur* (Brown).—White and lavender.  
*Louis Philippe* (Turner).—Crimson.  
*Marchioness of Cornwallis* (Whale).—White, if shaded young.  
*Marquis of Aylesbury* (Spary).—Rosy lilac.  
*Miss Sarah* (Edwards).—Blush.  
*Nonpareil* (Prockter).—Red.  
*Princess Radziville* (Gaines).—White and crimson.  
*Queen of Roses* (Widnall).—Rose.  
*Scarlet Gem* (Turner).—Scarlet.  
*Standard of Perfection* (Keynes).—Dark crimson.  
*Victorine* (Bushell).—Lilac.  
*Yellow Standard* (Keynes).—Yellow.

**HOW TO FIX AMMONIA.**—B. R.—In reply to your query, we cannot do better than quote the following, from *Johnson's Gardener's Almanack* of last year:—"A great deal has been written, and many suggestions involving considerable expense of money and labour have been made, for fixing the ammoniacal fumes usually given off by stable manure, whilst fermenting. The whole appears to us to be very mis-spent ingenuity; for it would be much cheaper and less trouble to allow the fumes to escape, and at the time of putting on the manure, to sprinkle it with pulverized carbonate of ammonia, or with ammoniacal gas liquor, proportionate to the quantity that has passed away in vapour. A dung-heap should be covered over with earth, to moderate the progress of decomposition."

- A LOVER OF A GOOD APPLE.**—We certainly prefer espaliers, pyramidal trees, or bushes, to standards, for small gardens; we know many amateurs who believe their wide-spreading apple trees to be a regular nuisance. If espaliers are *properly managed*, and not allowed to make *breast wood*, they will be found to be extremely fruitful, and the produce is, if any thing, finer than that of standards. Summer pruning, or root pruning in the autumn, will have a wonderful effect on the trees, in rendering them prolific.
- A YOUNG GARDENER.**—Some trees will not succeed well when budded; but where that operation can be performed, we should say it is the most expeditious method of propagation. In the case of it being desirable to renew the heads of old trees, grafting is preferable. Experience is the only sure guide in these matters.
- J. P.**—We have not had much experience in raising potatoes from seed; but we understand they are best raised in a slight hot-bed, and then transplanted into some rich well-prepared compost. We should be glad to hear from our friend, Mr. Yeomans, of Grantham, on this subject.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR APRIL.



### KITCHEN GARDEN.

THE dry weather during the past month, enabled most cultivators to get tolerably forward with cropping their land. Supposing that the requisite attention has been paid to the calendar for March, we shall now proceed with further directions.

*Brussels Sprouts* should be sown on a well prepared border, in order that they may be got sufficiently forward for planting between *beans*, *peas*, *potatoes*, &c. when these vegetables are sufficiently wide in the rows to allow of it. Seed imported from the Continent is held in most estimation. In addition to the above most excellent vegetable, *savoy*s, and the *green curled kale* must not be lost sight of; both being extremely hardy and productive. It is usual in this part of the



kingdom, to plant for the first crop, those which were sown last autumn.

*Beet.*—In consequence of the scarcity of potatoes and the dearness of bread, many roots and vegetables will be used, which have not previously been thought worthy of a place in the domestic economy of the artizan; amongst these we may mention the *mangold wurtzel*, and the varieties of *beet*. From recent experiments, they appear likely to become extensively useful, by being mixed with flour, in the formation of a palatable and wholesome bread. We should imagine the White Silesian, or *Sugar Beet*, would be best adapted for this purpose; whilst the *Red Beet* (of which there are Osborn's and Wyate's improved varieties) is well known as making a most excellent pickle, and is generally used with red cabbage, to improve its colour. The seeds may be sown in drills, or dibbled about twelve inches apart each way. The *mangold wurtzel* will require more room than the *beet*. Its leaves, boiled, form a good substitute for spinach.

*Beans* may continue to be sown for successional crops. As soon as they are well out of the ground, keep the hoe stirring amongst them. Many people imagine that it is of little use hoeing, when there are no weeds to be seen; but this is a mistaken notion, it being highly beneficial to keep the surface soil loose and friable.

*Cress.*—Of this the curled variety is the best, and a small quantity may be sown in drills. If wanted during the greater part of summer, it should be put in every ten days.

*Cabbages.*—Keep these well earthed up. The Sprotborough has proved itself a most hardy and early variety this spring.

*Celery.*—In some places and situations the main crop will be already sown. A rich light soil is most proper; care being taken that the young plants are not exposed either to cutting wind or drenching rain, when they first make their appearance.

*Cauliflowers*.—A small quantity may be sown the middle and latter end of the month. Where the amateur has the advantage of a frame or covering of calico, some should be got in immediately.

*Cucumbers*.—Towards the latter end of the month get some young plants in the frame, which will be soon enough, when very early ones are not required. [An article on their culture will be given in the next number.]

*Onions*.—In the more southern parts of the kingdom, these will possibly be above ground; attention must be paid to hoeing, weeding, &c.; and where the sowing has been neglected, they should be immediately got in. Amongst the various sorts of *onions*, the White and Brown Globe will be found worthy of extensive cultivation.

*Peas*.—There are so many new sorts, said to be excellent, coming out this season, that it would require considerable space to give them a fair trial. However, many of the most prominent varieties have been planted, in rows, in this neighbourhood, to test their comparative excellences. Of those tried last season, Ringwood Marrow, Warner's Early Emperor, and Dancer's Monastery (a fine *pea*), are worthy of notice. Continue to sow for succession crops. As useful well known *peas*, we may mention Scimeters, Imperial Dwarfs, Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow, Flack's Victory, and Milford's Marrow.

*Potatoes*.—It will be the safest plan, in the present uncertainty relative to the disease, to give the land destined for this crop a good dressing of lime, or lime and salt. Plant the potatoes whole, as much as possible, giving plenty of room between the rows, to plant *Brussels sprouts*, *savoy*s, &c. in the intervals, that in the event of their being again attacked, these vegetables may form a reserve, and in some measure prevent the serious loss which would accrue.

*Radishes*.—Sow successional crops, if required, as the season advances. The turnip-rooted varieties are the best.

*Sea Kale*.—This may be blanched in a similar way to *rhubarb*, and is considered a great delicacy. As a matter of course, there is some little trouble required to get leaves, long dung, &c, to cover the pots that are placed over the crowns of the plants, which probably is the reason it is not much cultivated by the artizan. They are generally procurable of most market gardeners and nurserymen, and should be allowed eighteen inches from each plant, or cluster of plants, which will be sufficient.

### GREENHOUSE.

Many plants will now require repotting. Syringe them occasionally in the early part of the day, and by frequent fumigations, keep down the aphis, or green fly. Put in cuttings of *fuchsias*, &c. Sow *balsams*, and other seeds of a similar description. The beautiful *tropæolums*, *achimenes*, &c. should now be gently excited; and cuttings of *verbenas* and plants for bedding out should be struck immediately. The seed of *calceolarius* must be sown; and as it is extremely minute, it should be scarcely covered with the soil.

### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

The beginning of the month, *carnations* and *picotees* may be planted in their blooming pots. Should the weather prove dry, with cutting winds, it will be advisable to defer it for a few days. If the compost has not been repeatedly passed through the hand, it will be necessary to place some potato sets in the pots, as a decoy for the wire worm. Sometimes, by neglecting this precaution, a valuable sort has been lost, which cost more than a sack of potatoes, even at their present exorbitant price.

*Auriculas*.—Give an occasional watering with liquid manure, and be careful not to get the trusses of flowers drawn, by over much kindness. As seedlings bloom, remove all pin-eyed and inferior flowers,

and of the good ones make memorandums for the readers of the *Midland Florist*, and send specimens to the editor. Look vigilantly after snails, and give the method of catching them mentioned in a previous number a fair trial.

*Ranunculus Seed*.—Cover the frames carefully at night in which the pans or boxes of seed may be; when germinating, they are extremely susceptible of frost.

*Tulips*.—A kind friend of ours suggests a good plan of removing the moisture from the hearts of the plants, by introducing a piece of thin sponge, attached to the end of a cane, which absorbs the water very readily. When the foliage is fairly above ground, stir the soil of the surface, filling up any crevices, removing weeds, &c. Nets should now be kept over the progressing plants, to preserve the foliage from damage by hail, &c.

*Polyanthus* seed may now be sown.

*Pansies* should be protected from cutting winds, and the beds examined by candlelight, to detect the marauders which eat and destroy the buds of flowers.

Pot off *dahlias* as they root, &c.

## FLOWER GARDEN AND SHRUBBERY.

*Evergreens* will now transplant with success; and to those who are fond of novelties in this department, we may mention as likely to form beautiful and interesting trees, the *Cryptomeria Japonica*, or Japanese Cypress, the Weeping Holly, the variegated American *Arborvitæ*, and a cypress from Mexico, introduced by the Horticultural Society.

*Perennial herbaceous plants* should be parted, the borders forked over, vacancies filled up, and all pruning, trimming, &c. finished forthwith.

*Hardy annuals* may be sown, and *Brompton stocks* planted out.

Grafting, inarching, and layering should now be proceeded with; and seeds of *laburnums*, *acacias*, &c. sown.

## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## ON PERFECTION OF FORM IN THE TULIP.

BY MR. G. W. HARDY, WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.

[Completed from page 113.]

WE have now to consider the form of the rim or margin of the cup or flower, and of course the form of the petals composing it.

When viewed from above, the margin will generally be found circular in all well formed flowers. When viewed horizontally, however, we have great diversity of forms, in consequence of the numberless varieties of angle and curve which the upper margins of the petals assume. It is therefore requisite to determine what is the most correct outline.

MR. GROOM, when speaking of the petals, says, "the cup should consist of six petals, three outer and three inner, which should be placed alternately, and close to each other; they should be broad and round on the top, and smooth on the edge, and sufficiently wide to allow of the edges lying on each other when fully expanded, by which all quartering or opening between the petals will be avoided, that being a great objection." He further observes, "the petals should be all level on the top, and not the three outer ones turning back from the others, nor the inner higher than the outer, which is not uncommonly the case, when the flower is a little past its prime."

MR. SLATER fully concurs with this description of the petals, and says, in reference to the point in question, "the top of each petal ought to be broad and well rounded, and perfectly level."

Both these authorities, therefore, (if we may be allowed to correct a little blundering in the use of the terms *round* and *level*) are agreed that the upper margin of the petals should be round; but whether this roundness should be the half or any other definite portion of a circle, we are left to conjecture; and no reason is given why the round margin should be preferred to any other form. These descriptions, therefore, are so far unsatisfactory; although perhaps Mr. Groom's account of the petals is, in every other respect, as complete as we could desire.

MR. GLENNY, and MR. WOOD (apparently in deference to Mr. Glenny's opinion) on the other hand, prefer a level margin. The former observes, in reference to this point, that "the petals should be six in number, broad at the ends and smooth at the edges, that the divisions may be not conspicuous." In another place he says, "the divisions between the petals" are "scarcely to show indenture;" and in his *Garden Almanack*, he further states, "where the petals meet is always indented; it is the worst fault; there are many varieties, but the less they indent the better." His diagrams, both in the *Gardener and Practical Florist*, and the *Garden Almanack*, accordingly represent straight-margined cups.

MR. WOOD tells us that "well formed flowers will have their six petals of the same size, obtuse, without notch, fringe, or serrature, narrowing towards the base, but even there of sufficient breadth to prevent the interstices from appearing." In the diagram which accompanies his remarks, the upper margin of the cup is represented so straight, or level, as scarcely to show any indentation where the petals intersect each other; and in his figures of the petals singly, the upper part of the margin appears level, as if a portion had been cut off.

To some persons the difference of opinion here observed may appear unimportant, and they may content themselves with believing it a mere matter of taste, on which each one may be allowed the free exercise of

his own unbiassed judgment. But if we are to understand by the word *taste* "a relish for things intellectually approved," then it must be conceded that our taste for correct forms is (like every other faculty of the mind) capable of improvement; and that, in order to secure greater uniformity of opinion respecting them, it is only needful that truthful principles should be inculcated; for, says a distinguished writer, "the purest taste, and the most perfect, is doubtless that which presents us with truth displayed with sense and beauty."

Hitherto no principles have been laid down for the guidance of our judgment, and therefore, we cannot wonder that the form of the margin should now remain a disputed point. In the rules which have been given concerning it, we have only another illustration of the errors men sometimes commit, when, in order to support some peculiar notions of their own, they would blindly subject the operations of nature to laws as crude as their own imaginations, and, regardless of the truthful lessons which she herself plainly teaches, vainly require the production of forms she was never designed to create.

In proof of this we have only to examine the structure and economy of a tulip flower itself, in reference to the form of its margin. In every part of it there is a manifest tendency to the production of graceful curves. We see it in the central parts of fructification; we see it in the general outline of the petals; and especially also do we see it in the arrangement of the coloured forms upon them; all of which, whether feather or flame, are found to consist of so many coloured lines disposed in curves, which bear a proportionate relation to each other and to the form of the flower itself. To render this more intelligible, I would recommend a few well dried petals of some of our finest varieties, which are perfect in their markings, to be carefully examined through a microscope, or, in its absence, a good common magnifying glass. The appearance presented is extremely beau-

tiful, and will amply repay the trouble. Beneath an integument, or skin, of peculiar transparency, we observe numerous vessels proceeding upwards from the heel or point of attachment to the stem. In the microscope they have, for the most part, a rich silvery or golden-coloured appearance; but, as viewed through a magnifying glass, they are more opaque, and much duller and darker in colour. When they first enter the petal they are few in number, but as they advance they divide into numerous others, which inosculate freely with each other; and at the margin we may frequently count a hundred, or a hundred and twenty, besides some twenty or more which pass to each of the lateral edges. A few of those in the centre run a straight course to the upper margin, but all the rest gradually diverge from the centre in regular curves of variable length, according to their distance from it; but all bearing the same relation to each other, the radius of every curve being the same, when not interfered with by frost, or other accidental occurrence. We see the necessity for this arrangement in the fact that the vessels which proceed to that portion of the upper margin of the petal which is not overlapped by others, almost invariably reach it at right angles; and that even those which pass to the sides, although they arrive there in a slanting direction, would also join at right angles the edge of a circle having the same curve as the upper margin of the petal, if they were only sufficiently elongated to reach it. Between the vessels are spaces containing numberless minute cells, in which is deposited the colouring matter forming feather and flame: consequently the lines it produces assume exactly the same form as the vessels themselves. In *feathered* tulips the deposit of colour is, or should be, limited to the spaces adjoining the margin, though we often find streaks lower down in the body of the petal; and as the deposit of colour often tapers off gradually, and extends further down some spaces than others, the peculiar appearance termed *pencilling* is the result.



In *flamed* flowers, apparently in consequence of the greater closeness of the vessels in the middle and lower parts of the petal, the colouring is more apt to show itself there in dense masses; but as the vessels proceed upwards, the spaces gradually enlarge, and the lines of colour become more broken and interrupted, so as to leave the spaces clear, until we arrive near the margin, where we have the feathering developed in the manner before described. In many instances some of the spaces are filled with colour from one end to the other, except that portion at the heel which is usually without; and where this arrangement is only sparingly observed, we have the beautiful branching flame which characterizes some of our choicest tulips.

This peculiar organisation of the petals indisputably proves that the laws of nature are opposed to the existence of straight or level margins in tulips, for by no arrangement of single divergent curves, equal in their radius, could the vessels be made to reach the upper margin at right angles, and produce also the beautiful feathering we generally find on the lateral edges, if such were the form of the petals. Their vascular economy would have to be changed entirely, and with it the general appearance of the whole flower. This, to my mind, presents an insuperable objection, and renders it unnecessary for me to adduce other arguments against such an ideal form as a half globular cup, with triangular petals, and a level margin.

Perhaps, however, I may be allowed to observe further, that independently of every consideration arising from the peculiar structure of the petals, it has long appeared to me an easy matter to determine the correct form of the margin on another principle. By way of illustration, let us take two tulips of the same kind; in one the coloured delineations are similar in every respect, in the other no two petals are alike. If we ask ourselves why the first is most admired, the answer is simply this, because the eye is more

pleased with the *greater uniformity* which exists in its coloured forms; and not on account of any peculiarity in the colour itself, for that is the same in both. Or suppose we take two tulips of different kinds, one having a long cup and the other a short one, but both equally rich in their coloured delineations; and inquire why the short cup is invariably preferred to the long one. Here again the answer is not because the colour is superior in either, for in both it is equally good; but simply because there is *greater uniformity* in the general outline of the shorter flower, the effect of which is considerably increased by its more perfect accordance with the form in which the colour is displayed. Experience, therefore, teaches us that the most perfect, and consequently the most beautiful tulip, is that which presents to us the most perfect uniformity of outline, combined with a corresponding uniformity in the character and arrangement of the coloured forms depicted upon it. In tulips with round cups and straight margins, however, there can neither be uniformity of outline nor harmony with the coloured forms; and believing every rule to be defective, which does not provide for this best of all properties, I have long since discarded Mr. Glenny's, in favour of another, which requires the upper margin of every petal to present a curve, *equal in its radius to half the diameter of the flower*, when in its greatest perfection.

This is a high standard, when conjoined with the half globular cup; and whenever attained, we are sure to find *exactness of proportion* in every part, which, in an object of such simple form as the tulip, is essential to its perfection. It also possesses the additional advantage of being easy of application, whenever petals of unknown varieties are submitted to our inspection; and if we adopt the following mode of proceeding, much tedious calculation may be avoided:—A single petal will suffice, though it is always better to have two—one split up halfway from the heel, the other from the centre of the margin—

because these would enable us to trace the outline on paper with greater accuracy, which is the first thing to be done. We then draw a line perpendicularly down the centre, adding about one-tenth of an inch, for half the thickness of the stem. If we now divide the whole length into eleven parts, whatever may be the length of the petal, seven of these parts, measured from the tip, will exactly give us the radius of the curve, which the outline of the flower itself, and the upper margin of each petal ought to have; and, with the aid of a pair of compasses, we may correctly determine the quality of the tulip itself, in point of form.

Before closing my observations, it may, perhaps, be desirable to reduce the principles we have been discussing to the form of rules, for our future guidance; and I believe we may safely adopt the following, as comprising the most natural description of "What constitutes Perfection of Form in the Tulip:"—

1. Every tulip, when in its greatest perfection, should be circular in its outline throughout; its depth being equal to half its width across from the tip, or highest point, of one petal to the tip of the other immediately opposite.

2. It should be composed of six petals, three inner and three outer, which should all be of the same height, and have such a form as will enable them to preserve this circular outline; their edges being even, stiff, and smooth; and their surfaces free from shoulder, or inequality of every kind.

3. The breadth of the petals should be amply sufficient to prevent any interstices being seen between them, so long as the flower retains its freshness.

4. There should be exact uniformity between the outline of the cup, and the outline of the upper margin of the petal, which should form an arc, or curve, whose radius is equal to half the diameter, or whole depth of the flower.

My remarks have extended to a much greater length than I at first intended; but I do not regret

the time spent in the investivation, as the subject is interesting. The opinions of our principal authorities are here brought under revision, and all who feel inclined may ascertain how much each has added to our knowledge respecting it. As far as I could, consistently with my own views, I have availed myself of their suggestions; but in the STANDARD OF FORM here recommended, some new points will be found deserving of notice. Being wholly founded on principles in accordance with the economy of nature, it will the more surely abide the test of time; and so long as the symmetrical arrangement of equal curves shall be considered more graceful, and more fascinating to the eye, than a motley combination of curves and straight lines, so long, there is reason to believe, it will be deemed worthy of universal adoption.

G. W. HARDY.

*Warrington, December 17th, 1846.*

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## B E E S.

As an old apiarian I felt gratified by the introduction of the subject of Bees into the pages of the *Midland Florist*, this month, having ever esteemed an apiary to be an admirable adjunct to every garden. Nothing can be more delightful to the intelligent and reflecting mind than the development, constitution, and habits of these wonderful insects; and as a source of rational enjoyment, as well as pecuniary benefit, I am rejoiced that they have received that consideration and protection which they so richly merit. I trust that your pages will be occasionally occupied by some communications respecting these "chartered libertines;" and in the meantime give me leave to suggest to your correspondent, "A Lace-maker," that honey, with the admixture of half an ounce of common salt to every pound, is decidedly the best and safest food

for weak swarms, stocks, or casts. As the bees invariably cement the bottom of the hive to the stone or stool on which it stands, it is a very unwise plan to raise the former for the purpose of feeding. Through the last winter I have been obliged to feed three hives, and in doing so, I procure a small tin or zinc drawer, about six or seven inches in length, and one inch in depth and width, for which I pay twopence. Having nearly filled the drawer with the honey, I place three or four straws from end to end, and then insert it at the usual opening of the hive. It may be withdrawn when empty by means of a hooked wire, and thus the bees are supplied without at any time displacing the hive, or injuriously exposing the interior to the alternations of weather.

A SUBSCRIBER.

*Beeston, March 2nd, 1847.*

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## THE CULTURE OF THE POLYANTHUS.

BY MR. J. STATON, FLORIST, RUDDINGTON, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.

AT this season of the year, perhaps a few remarks on the culture of the polyanthus may prove salutary as well as useful, and serve as a reference for the young amateur who may wish to cultivate this lovely little, but once almost neglected florists' flower. Neglected I may justly say, as for several years after the introduction of Pearson's Alexander and Hufton's Earl Grey, very few sterling varieties were raised in this neighbourhood; for during that period most of the seedlings worthy of a name were so very similar to the sorts from which the seed was obtained, both in foliage and bloom, as not to be distinguishable by the best of judges. This in a measure prevented many florists from persevering in raising new varieties, and I attribute the failure to nothing less than want of proper attention in hybridizing; for of late years,

since this system has become known and adopted, some very splendid seedlings have made their appearance, (to wit) Hudson's Champion, with others which have come under my observation. As for my own seedlings I shall leave them for the remarks of others; but I have no doubt, since a desire for the culture of the polyanthus is increasing, in a few years many very beautiful additions will be made to this pretty neat flower, by nothing more or less than the simple system above-mentioned.

Some florists prefer growing this plant in pits, a system I never adopt; as they require much greater attention, are far more delicate in habit, and never increase so well under this mode of treatment. Others separate and replant in the beginning of August, and too frequently lose a great many plants by so doing, which, in my opinion, is one reason why polyanthus are so scarce; but they quietly content themselves that some few are spared, and directly attribute the loss to the hot weather, which is a grievous mistake; for at this season the plants are almost, I may say, in a dormant state; in fact the old foliage is fading, the new is not advanced, and if removed, however suitable the weather, a great many will most assuredly die. Bear in mind, never remove or separate your plants when in this state, or you may expect the consequences described.

The situation most suitable is a well raised border on the north side of a quick or hawthorn fence; this serves as a shade during the hot months of summer, and also allows sufficient sun to the plants in the spring. As soon as the new foliage is advanced two or three inches (not before), which will be about the 10th of September, take up your plants, separate the increase, and plant them in the border, prepared of loamy turf, leaf soil, and rotten sheep dung; a little willow dust added will be an acquisition. Give them sufficient water to settle the soil to the roots, and should the weather prove dry, repeat the watering accordingly.

The plants are then left without any further care. I never give mine any protection whatever through the winter, and although this season has been most severe, I have not lost a single plant. The first week in April I select those that have made the best trusses, for exhibition, as we show the plants in bloom (not cut specimens); and taking them from the border, with as much soil as possible, I place them in quart pots, give a gentle watering, and remove them to a more shady situation. Guard against snails by scattering a little barley chaff or common salt about the pots, or they may destroy your blooms, and your labour will be in vain. The careful removing of the plants rather improves the quality of the flowers than otherwise; but as soon as the day of exhibition is over, replace them in the border, in their former situation.

During the months of May, June, July, and August, a few hawthorn branches stuck on the border will be of great service, and effectually prevent the sun from scorching the plants, which would injure them to a serious extent. Plenty of water must be supplied daily; should the weather prove dry and hot, regularly soak them, or they will probably be attacked by the red spider, a dreadful enemy, which undoubtedly destroys numbers of plants every season. Should you be troubled with this venomous insect, without delay syringe the foliage on the under side with some strong soap-suds from the wash-house; this will drive if not destroy them, and there is no fear of being troubled a second time, as they will never return to the plants any more that season. I have always found one application effectual, and the plants have not suffered in the slightest degree.

A list of the best varieties for competition being given in the March number, it will not be necessary to repeat them; but any further information that may be required, I shall be most proud to communicate, as far as my humble abilities will allow.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON THE PROPER MODE  
OF JUDGING THE PINK.

BY R. M.

MUCH difference of opinion appears to exist amongst florists, as far as regards the properties required to constitute a good flower. It is the opinion of myself and floral neighbours in this part of the country, that a proper standard of judgment is required, and that a code of rules should be made and adopted throughout the country. And through the medium of the *Midland Florist*, I have no doubt it may be brought into practice, that when an individual has seen accounts of certain flowers having been winners at different exhibitions throughout the country, and may be desirous to add a few new varieties to his collection, which is the case with most florists, that he may have a knowledge they have some of the properties required to constitute a good flower, at the same time that he may have an idea they have been judged by certain rules acknowledged by the cultivators and exhibitors of the pink in general; but under the present system of judgment, an individual cannot place the least dependence on what he has purchased, until he has seen them bloom, as varieties which suit one part of the country will not be esteemed in another, more especially in the red laced class. We North Staffordshire florists have grown most of the Lancashire and Yorkshire red laced varieties, but we find many of them much darker in the eye than the lacing, which we consider a great fault, for we like the eye and lacing to correspond as near as may be; but if I am not wrong in my opinion, we prefer a much brighter coloured red, than the Lancashire florists do, and in fact a lighter and brighter red than many of the red laced varieties now in cultivation. It is in the above named class that the florists in the midland counties differ in opinion so much, and I think that a standard of judgment is



required more especially for these, as I believe we nearly agree in the midland counties with regard to the purple laced and black and white classes.

I quite coincide with your correspondent in the January number, as regards the size of the London flowers, the smooth edge, lacing, &c.; but the south country flowers do not suit this part, the faults named by H. S. M. appear in the same degree to us. I want to see them with a leaf something like a camellia, smooth on the edge, and with some substance in it, and which I have no doubt may and will be obtained in a very few years, by strict attention being paid, to collecting seed from sorts that have good properties, particularly a good leaf.

The varieties named by H. S. M. rank amongst the best sorts in this neighbourhood, and what few of them I have grown and seen, have less faults than many now in cultivation.

I beg to suggest the following code of rules for the pink:—The petals of the flower should be round and smooth on the edge, and go well to the shoulders, to prevent them being spade shaped. The flower to be perfectly flat, except a crown formed with a few of the inner petals. No flower to contain less than twelve petals, the colour to be well defined, the white to be clear and distinct. The lacing and eye, or centre, to correspond in colour. The lacing to be well laid on to the edge of the petal, and not to show a white fringe outside the lacing. The petals imbricating each other neatly, and showing the lacing distinct. The pod of the flower to be nearly straight, and not liable to burst, so that it will hold the petals close together, otherwise the flower will show what florists term an open throat, and not form a perfect round eye, which is a most essential requisite in a good flower.

The plain or black and white pink, which we hold in great esteem here, should be judged by the above rules, except the lacing.

*Newcastle-under-Lyme, February 13th, 1847.*

## CULTIVATION OF THE PANSY.

Few, if any, florists' flowers repay the grower so well for his care and trouble, as the pansy; yet few are worse managed. You will often hear young florists complain that the pansy so soon degenerates in size and colour, that they have not patience to grow it. This, however, is for want of a little extra care, or knowledge of the best mode of culture.

I have been a pansy grower for the last twelve years, have paid much attention to, and been moderately successful in the cultivation; and having derived much pleasure and gratification from the simple though great beauty of this flower, and being wishful to add to the enjoyment of others, I have sent you my method of cultivation, which I think will be found to answer the expectations of those who may adopt it.

The soil best suited for the pansy is three parts good loam, two of rotten cow dung, one of bog soil, and one of sharp sand, with a little wood ashes, mixed together, and left in a heap for at least three months.

We will now suppose it is April, and you have purchased, or otherwise procured a few good varieties, and prepared a bed of the above-named stuffs; before, however, you plant, be careful to wash all the soil away from the roots of your newly-received plants, for it will most likely be very different from yours, or pansies may have grown in it for some time, which would have a tendency to deteriorate it. Divide the roots into as many plants as you can, being careful at the same time that each stem has roots, or it will be only a cutting, and should be treated rather differently. When you plant them press the soil firmly round the roots, and then water abundantly, with a can having a very small rose; protect them from the sun by means of a mat, without, however, depriving them of light and air; keep them thus protected for a week.

In order to prevent the pansy from degenerating, it will be necessary to make two beds in a year, from

*cuttings.* For this purpose take the side shoots in preference to the centre ones ; for although those in the centre appear the stronger, they seldom succeed in striking, the stem not being solid, and the bark being too hard. The short shoots at the edge of the plant, with the bark almost white, will strike quickly. These cuttings should not be longer than two inches, or two inches and a half, and they should be carefully cut just below a joint ; this is very important, for if a long piece be left below the joint it will rot, and cause the loss of the plant. The leaves must be carefully removed one inch from the bottom, without injuring the bark of the stem. The proper time for this operation is the beginning or middle of May, for summer and autumn flowering ; and the end of August for the next spring.

Your cuttings must be struck in the bed you intend them to flower in ; plant them from six to eight inches apart, press the soil firmly round them, water abundantly, and protect from the heat of the sun for a week or ten days, or if the weather be hot and dry, for a longer time ; but if possible, select rainy weather for this operation, for cuttings strike much more surely in rainy and cloudy weather.

Do not use the same bed more than twice, and not that often, without adding some fresh soil, and turning the old over.

I am aware some people say one bed of cuttings each year will do. "Make it," say they, "in August, and they will flower all the next year." So they will ; but long before the year is over, they will produce nothing but bad shaped and worse coloured flowers ; and the grower will be quite vexed that they should be so much worse than those of his neighbour, who has bestowed a little more trouble, and paid a little more attention in planting two beds in the year, one for spring and the other for the autumn following.

You cannot always depend upon the colour of the blossoms coming true ; they are very liable to run.

One of the best means of preventing this, is to protect them from the mid-day sun, and not suffer the shoots to get too long, but head them back, and make cuttings of the pieces.

The best mode of protecting the pansy from frost, is to lay between each row, and close to the roots, some straw or hay.

The wire worm, slugs, and snails, must be looked for and destroyed.

A. Z.

*Lancashire, Feb. 19, 1847.*

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### TULIP SHOWS.

ALLOW me, through the medium of your excellent little work, to suggest a few remarks on the present method of "open showing," which, in my humble opinion, requires some modification.

According to the present system, circulars are in the first place widely distributed, announcing "a grand tulip show, open to all England," stating also that a splendid silver cup will be the principal prize.

The amateur, with his small collection of hard-earned flowers, though anxious to become a competitor, is painfully aware that the odds are so fearfully against him as to render *his* chances quite hopeless.

I think it would give far greater satisfaction, and even be more to their own interest, if the dealers, on such occasions, would come forward handsomely with their contributions, but leave the prizes to be contended for by amateurs only. I should by no means wish to debar them from staging flowers, which I would have ticketed with the name of the subscriber and his residence. The amateur could then look over their collections, and select a few favourite flowers, knowing that the following year he will have only his brother amateurs to contend with. The few flowers he may possess would be attended to with anxious care, and if they meet his anticipations, he

would stage them with pride, and look with great anxiety for the result. But under the present system he is comparatively careless, knowing that the "COMPETITION" is confined to a few of the large growers, and that he is put entirely out of the question. Now if some such alteration were made, I believe the dealers would find a better market, the amateur subscribers would greatly increase in numbers, and all parties would meet on the occasion with that goodwill and friendly feeling which ought to characterise every florist assembly.

#### A SUBSCRIBER AND AMATEUR.

[We perfectly agree with the above observations; and from individual experience, we can say that dealers are *losers* in the long run, by exhibiting against amateurs.—CONDUCTOR.]

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### Part II.

## NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

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### FRUITS.

**KNIGHT'S SWEET RED CURRANT.**—This was raised by the late President of the Horticultural Society, and is certainly *not so acid* as the red grape and other varieties.

**THE CHERRY RED CURRANT** is a new sort from the Continent; its bunches are short, and the berries large; it is a robust grower and appears to be worth adding to our collections.

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### FLOWERS.

**THOMAS BROWN TULIP.**—Previous to the sale of the Slough collection, this variety was always called

"Polyphemus extra;" it was broke by Mr. C. Brown, but was not considered distinct enough to give it another name. Brown's Polyphemus is four inches taller, feather nearly black, good yellow, two shades deeper than the other, and only opens when the weather is very warm.

**NEW PANSIES.**—*Coudrey's Ne Plus Ultra*—Maroon purple, extra fine form.—*Coudrey's Nulli Secundi*—Deep purple, round and flat.—*Coudrey's Merry Monarch*—Rich yellow ground, belted with bronzy purple.—*Major's Blue Fringe*—This is said by eminent judges to be a novel and most attractive variety. The ground colour is pure white, with a blue belt round the margin of the flower, each petal being perfectly laced. It is inclined occasionally to be rather rough on the edge; but it will doubtless be the precursor of flowers similarly marked, and possessing that grand essential *a smooth petal*.

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## HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**PHLOX VERNA CÆRULESCENS.** (*The Blue Spring Phlox*.)—This is a variety of our old favourite the *Phlox verna*, and, like it, covers the surface of the ground with a dense mass of foliage, throwing up numerous clusters of pale blue flowers, about six inches in height. It continues long in flower, and is well adapted for banks, or rock-work.

**POTENTILLA FINTELMANII.**—A variety with flowers of the most brilliant light scarlet imaginable. Whoever is fond of this tribe will consider this a decided acquisition.

**HEPATICA ATROPURPUREA FLORE PLENO.** (*The Dark Purple Double Hepatica*.)—This is a seminal variety from the Continent, with flowers several shades darker than the double blue. As spring flowers the whole family are deservedly admired.

**COLCHICUM AUTUMNALE, FLORE ALBA PLENO.** (*Double White Autumn Crocus.*)—The colchicums usually cultivated in our gardens are the single pink and single white. To these may be added the double pink and the double white, both most interesting plants. We received the latter from the Continent, several years ago. With us it has flowered extremely well.

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As beautiful new pendulous trees, we may here enumerate the Improved Weeping Birch, the Golden Barked Weeping Ash, the New Broad-leaved Weeping Elm, the Weeping Almond, and the Weeping Mountain Ash.

DWARF FRENCH, OR HARICOT BEANS, being more in request than usual this season, in addition to the Dun and China Dwarfs, the Negro Major is an improved variety, having been awarded many prizes, at various horticultural shows, during the past season.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

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### ROOT PRUNING TREES.

It is generally understood in the world that if "*the cause is removed the effect ceaseth.*" Perhaps our artizan gardeners, who generally have their plots of ground in first-rate condition, find that their pear and apple trees *make a great quantity of wood*, in the shape of strong luxuriant shoots; their trees are the picture of good health, but they have *not much fruit*. If they buy a tree, say three years old, the shoots are usually very much shortened, when planted, and under ordinary circumstances it will put out vigorous branches the ensuing summer; if, on the other hand,

the head of the tree has not been cut, it will be very possible that instead of making shoots, *flower buds* will be formed *the first year*.

The man may prune, and *prune again*, his vigorous tree, by cutting out branches in the autumn, but this only increases the evil. More roots have been made during the summer, and these will enable the shoots to push with double vigour next year. Let him observe that the tree which he bought, had its roots *cut or mutilated in taking up*; then let him cut through those of his strong-growing tree, stopping the channels through which nutriment is supplied to the branches, and he will find that *instead of leaves he will get fruit*; and in lieu of a large straggling head, which overshadows his garden, and *sadly* interferes with his vegetables and flowers, he will have a compact-headed tree, full of fruit-bearing spurs, and highly prolific.

In fact, a man need not let his tree get beyond a certain size, for by regularly pruning the roots at stated periods, their much greater enlargement is effectually prevented. Let any person try the plan next October; removing the soil three feet from the tree to be operated on, to the depth of a yard, and with a sharp spade cutting through the roots. We shall, however, return to this subject before October arrives, and treat of it more fully.

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## CARROTS.

THE ALTRINGHAM is a much-esteemed variety, attaining a large size, and is therefore profitable either for garden or field culture. It is a handsome root, and in consequence of standing high out of the ground, has a green top. It is sometimes called "The Green-topped Carrot."

THE WHITE BELGIAN is large, and valued for its adaptation to sandy loam, and its great produce per acre; it is not so much esteemed as the foregoing,



a prejudice being entertained against its colour. It is excellent for cows and horses, and is by no means a despicable article of food for these who are partial to these sorts of vegetables.

THE LONG SURREY is finer grained than the two preceding varieties, and is handsome and much cultivated. It is of a darker colour than the Altringham.

THE EARLY HORN is small, and not adapted for the artizan's garden; its most valuable property being its precocity or earliness.

### Part III.



## REVIEW.



THE FRUIT, FLOWER, AND KITCHEN GARDEN. By Patrick Neill, LL.D., F.R.S.E., Secretary to the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. *Edinburgh: A. and C. Black. Nottingham: R. Sutton.*

WHOEVER has the means of access to, or is in possession of that splendid work the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, will on perusal of the article "Horticulture," agree with us, as to its excellence and practical utility. A reprint, in octavo, has appeared under the above title, and has now reached a third edition, which, to quote the author's own words, "has been revised with considerable care, so as to adapt it to the more advanced state of horticultural improvement."

We have looked through the neat and well printed volume, with "*much pleasure and profit to ourselves*," and can truly say, that the information contained in its pages, is conveyed in a popular and highly interesting manner, and *will well repay* all who are desirous to acquire a greater insight into that most delightful pursuit "Horticulture."

The work also abounds in well-executed wood engravings, of grafting, budding, inarching, trained trees, forcing pits, &c. &c. Altogether it is a most valuable book, and published at a moderate price. In a future number we shall give an extract, that our readers may themselves form some estimate of its excellency.

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## OBITUARY.



IN the various grades of social life we encounter a great diversity of dispositions and characters, and amongst them, some fitted to adorn and others to disgrace society. But the world will always recognise as a benefactor, the man of genius, taste, benevolence, and refinement. Whether in public or private, he will be constantly dispensing a certain amount of good; and whilst his accomplishments fit him for the higher, his benevolence and sympathy make him equally acceptable to the lower ranks of life. JOHN SHELMEKDINE, Esq., whose urbanity, politeness, and sterling integrity will be long remembered by every one who had the honour of his acquaintance, is briefly alluded to in the *Midland Florist*, as one who, in addition to his other good qualities of heart and understanding, possessed an enthusiasm for floriculture in all its varied forms that gained for him the admiration and esteem of a large portion of the florists of the north. He was the originator and patron of the Altrincham Floral Society; and to his impartiality, judgment, and good taste, is to be ascribed its popularity and importance. One circumstance considerably assisted his first endeavours, and that was the extinction of the Manchester Floral Society; or in modern language, its amalgamation with the Botanic Society. It is a well known fact, that the above society, with all its splendour, wealth, and other means attached, has never been popular; nor has it ever extended a fostering influence to horticultural and floricultural science, the ostensible object for which it was established. Under these circumstances, and with so respected a leader, the Altrincham society, with very limited funds, became the most popular one in the north; and though its prizes were insignificant in a pecuniary sense, they were appreciated, from the fact that they were acquired in the open field of fame, where all met on equal terms and under the most liberal management. For the establishment and successful working of this society, we are indebted to Mr. Shelmerdine, whose worth in private life can only be justly appreciated by those who felt and partook of his bounty. He was a warm,

pleasant, sincere and intelligent companion, and a halo of good nature beamed in every feature. He was a philanthropist in every sense of the word, and suffering humanity experienced in him a benevolent and prompt sympathy. His personal appearance was commanding and prepossessing in the extreme, and well agreed with the nobler qualities of his mind. It is a matter of regret that the stream of such goodness should ever be ruffled by worldly cares, or his kindness and credulity be imposed upon by the artifices of deceit and cunning. Yet duped he was, more than once, by the very persons he sheltered in their need and sustained in their adversity. In a publication of this nature I wish to notice him simply in his relation to the floral community, of which he was a bright ornament; and if every member of that community would copy his example, societies would flourish, and floriculture be a source of rational delight sufficiently extensive and interesting to engage all classes of the community, from the peer to the peasant. As in society we choose for our companions men whose temper and habits assimilate with our own, so in the objects that engage our attention and conduce to our pleasure, we select some particular one that pre-eminently interests and pleases us, even so it was with our worthy and much lamented friend, whose place in the Altrincham Floral Society will perhaps never be supplied. His favourite flower was the tulip, and in order to acquire a valuable collection he spared no expense; but it is a fact well known to all who possess a truly valuable collection, that money alone will not procure it. His bed was enhanced by a quantity of seedlings, raised from the celebrated Louis XVI. tulip, several of which have carried off prizes at the Altrincham exhibitions; and from their similarity to the parent, are certainly very interesting. His death, which occurred in the 55th year of his age, took place at his residence, Mount-pleasant, Altrincham, on the 28th of November, 1846. This humble but sincere tribute to the memory of departed worth, is paid by one who admired his character and esteemed his friendship.

ALPHA.

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## QUERIES.



A reader of the *Midland Florist* who has constructed a greenhouse, and is attempting to heat it with hot air, has got a current 110°, but is foiled by a back draught, and wishes to know the best way to remedy it.

C. T. P.

What is the best method of cultivating pumpkins, to produce a large size?

*Beeston, March, 1847.*

AMATEUR.

About three years ago, I set an orange pippin, and it is now grown a fine tree, about two feet high; I should like to know if it should be grafted, and how I may get it done.

[Our correspondent must graft his young orange tree with some good or approved variety. He may follow the directions given in a previous number of the *Midland Florist*; or if he choose to wait till the budding season, there will be given ample directions for his guidance, to enable him to perform that operation.]

I take the liberty to congratulate you on bringing out your little work in so neat and cheap a form; also with such a good type that "those that run may read." I should like some of your able correspondents to write an article on the destruction of rats and mice, and other devouring vermin; for I think they destroy one-twentieth part of the produce of the land every year. If parish officers, &c. were authorised to give so much per head or per dozen for them, I think it would be a great benefit to the country.

F. F.

Could you, or any of your numerous readers, inform me of the best *means* to *effectually destroy*, without injury to the plant or fruit, that species of insect commonly called "*green fly*," so detrimental to the growth of plants—they infest particularly the gooseberry plant? I have tried various means, but have hitherto been unsuccessful. By so doing, you will oblige your subscribers here.

Sheffield.

JOHN TURNER.

[They may be destroyed by fumigation with tobacco. When parties grow berries for exhibition, it would be worth while, to have a wire frame, which might be covered with calico, of sufficient size to cover the largest bush. This should be placed over the infected plant, then put a small quantity of tobacco into a flower pot, which should be raised about an inch from the ground, to allow the air to draw through the hole at the bottom; the tobacco must be well lighted by placing red-hot cokes, &c. under it. We believe this will be found effectual.]

I have been told that there is a superior variety of the Mountain Virgin Bower (*Clematis montana*). I am a great admirer of these beautiful climbing plants: can you tell me whether the above variety is in cultivation, and where procurable?

[We believe that Messrs. Veitch, of Exeter, are in possession of the *Clematis montana grandiflora*. The flowers are said to be large, white, and fragrant. The species grows abundantly on the Himalaya mountains, in Northern India, and is therefore quite hardy.—CONDUCTOR.]

About twelve months ago, I became possessed of an old myrtle, with narrow foliage, *finely variegated*; the pot was covered with a thick coat of green paint, which I removed, in order that it might grow more freely. To my great astonishment the tree is now become green, like other myrtles, with the exception of a few sprigs. I will thank you, or any of the readers of the *Midland Florist*, to account for the change.

March 24, 1847.

OXONIENSIS.

In grafting an old apple tree, a few weeks ago, I found the bark part more freely from the stock, and more sap, on the north side than on the south; and this was the same in more than one instance. Can you, or any of your readers inform me of the reason of this seeming anomaly?

POMONA.

Mr. Rivers, of Sawbridgeworth, speaks very highly of the Prairie roses, in his valuable work the *Rose Amateur's Guide*. Would you inform me if they have been grown in the midland counties, and whether they are quite hardy?

A ROSE AMATEUR.

You will oblige a subscriber by giving an article on pruning espalier apple and pear trees, in an early number of the *Midland Florist*; as the information on that subject is very crude and unsatisfactory, in the best works I have seen.

T. B. S.

Can you, or any of your correspondents, inform me where *Centaurea benedicta herba*, or the Blessed Thistle, is chiefly found? Whether it is general, or confined to certain localities? and is it supposed or known to have a medicinal value or property?

Cheltenham, April 3, 1847.

J. D. T.

A reader of the *Midland Florist* wishes to know how she can rear the Indian shot from seed; having tried several times, and always failed to make them bloom.

MARIANNE.

A list of show varieties of the pansy, for a beginner, similar to the lists of auriculas and carnations already given in the *Midland Florist*, would prove very acceptable to your obedient servant,

London, March 31st, 1847.

AN AMATEUR.

I am a grower of carnations and picotees, and want to increase my stock of the latter by an addition of a few of the very best sorts. Would you have the goodness to mention a few of the new sorts, that beat the old ones, and where to obtain them correct to name? You would perhaps oblige your readers with a description of some of the really first-rate in the three classes. A paper on the growth of the above, in the same clear style as that on the auricula, would be very acceptable to your readers.

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE MIDLAND FLORIST, AND

A SUFFERER FROM PUFFS.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SELECTION OF HERBACEOUS PÆONIES, IN REPLY TO R. HINTON, BY THE CONDUCTOR.—However common or coarse the large double red pæony may be considered, still we think every one must acknowledge it to be a gorgeous and finely formed flower, well adapted for the margins of shrubberies and carriage drives, &c. The section of this family more appropriate for general cultivation in small gardens, is the albiflora; they are not so profuse in their growth as the *P. officinalis*, having neater foliage and a more erect habit. Of these we have flowered

*Pæonia albiflora fragrans*. (Sweet-scented Chinese Pæony.)—

This is figured in the Horticultural Society's Transactions, and bears a double flower, of a beautiful deep pink; it is, as its name implies, very fragrant.

*Pæonia albiflora Whitleyji*. (Whitley's Double White Pæony.)

—A most attractive sort; free bloomer, with large pure white double flowers.

*Pæonia albiflora Pottsii*. (Potts's Chinese Pæony.)—Some years ago plants found their way to England, from China, through the instrumentality of the commanders of merchant vessels trading to the Celestial Empire. This addition was made to our collections by Captain Pott's, whence it takes its specific name. The colour is of a deep purplish rose, very double flowers, and contrasts well with the preceding sorts.

*Pæonia albiflora grandiflora*.—This differs from those previously described inasmuch that it has large single white flowers, and is a most desirable plant, though at present rather scarce.

*Pæonia albiflora insignis*.—This also is a large flowering variety, with conspicuous anthers. The flowers are single, of a delicate peach colour, and stand well above the foliage.

*Pæonia albiflora festiva*.—Is a Continental variety, white, occasionally edged with pink, and is a striking and beautiful sort.

Independent of these, we have imported the following, which, as soon as they flower, will be described in the *Midland Florist*. We have seen them bloom when in Belgium, and were highly delighted with their character, but should prefer seeing them again, before we lay their description before our readers: their names are *Pæonia anemoneflora striata*, *P. elegans superba*, *P. grandiflora nivea pleno*, *P. prolifera tricolor*, *P. speciosa striata*.

We must not forget to include in this brief description, the varieties of *P. tenuifolia*, with beautiful fennel-like foliage,

and of more humble growth than the preceding. Amongst our collection we have *Pæonia tenuifolia latifolia*, *P. tenuifolia insignis*, *P. tenuifolia rosea*; but the gem of this section is *Pæonia tenuifolia flore pleno*, with large double crimson flowers; it is a most graceful sort, and cannot fail to become a general favourite.

Independent of these, there is *Pæonia anemoneflora* (The Anemony-flowered Pæony), with large flowers, and the guard leaves smooth and fine, the centre being composed of small leaflets, in the way of the double anemone. It is a showy sort.

*Pæonia lobata* (The Lobe-flowered Pæony), is single, of a beautiful rose colour, the petals are finely shaped, and it would be a good variety to raise seed from, if hybridized by other fine sorts.

**HENRY.**—The passion flower is not sufficiently hardy to withstand the winter in the midland counties, without protection. If, however, "Henry" has a *warm* and *dry* situation, either of the following varieties may be tried:—*Passiflora Mayana*, *Incarnata*, *cœrulea*, or *Colvillii*.—**CONDUCTOR.**

**A GARDENER** certainly renders himself liable to be informed against for hawking *seeds for sale* from village to village. We know that it is often done, but that will not render him the less liable. Every hawker of seeds must get a license, which will cost him £4 per annum; and if he drives his own horse and cart, he will have to pay £4 more.

**HERBERT**, who wishes to have specimens of the mistletoe, should get some ripe seeds, which may be obtained *now*. These must be inserted in the crevices of the bark, and in order to avoid their displacement, a little damp moss should be fastened over them.

**J. S.**—When your lilies have fairly started into growth, liquid manure may be advantageously applied. We should let them rise at least a foot before its application.

**AMATOR FLORUM.**—It certainly may weaken auricula plants to allow them to seed, but nature makes provision for this demand on the energies of the plant; and the value of good seed is such, that we should not hesitate a moment to let our plants ripen theirs.

**POTOOOOOOOOS.**—We should prefer saving seed from a fine, clean, well shaped breeder tulip, impregnated with the farina from a rectified flower of a similar class, taking care that the male parent was the best that could be obtained.

**TULIP PETALS** may be preserved in great perfection, by using paper similar to that in which botanical specimens are dried, and moving them frequently. They should be gathered when perfectly dry.

**THE PEAR TREE** may be rendered productive by root pruning : though it has been planted a dozen years we should not despair of it. In November, the soil should be removed round it, to sufficient depth to cut through all the main roots. This may be about three feet from the stem. By checking the growth of these roots, the formation of bloom buds will be induced. It is advisable to fill up the trench with some prepared compost.

In reply to the question, whether the gooseberry and currant will fertilize each other, we cannot do better than quote the very high authority of the Hon. and Very Reverend William Herbert, LL.D., dean of Manchester, who, in an interesting article on "Hybridization amongst Vegetables," in the second part of the Horticultural Society's Journal, page 97, says, "The gooseberry and red and white currant are held to be of one genus, but it has not been found practicable to blend them, and probably it is not ; but it does not follow, because they will not *breed together directly*, that they might not, through some other species, as the genus *Gladiolus* (corn flags) ; *Gladiolus cardinalis* and *natalensis* refuse to mix with each other, *but do freely* with *Gladiolus oppositifolius*. Since both these crosses with *oppositiflorus* make seed, I consider that, *by perseverance*, the impracticable cross can be nearly forced, by reducing both crosses one step further from the dissentient parents, till the two crosses are able to intermix, and then crossing the produce upwards, step by step, with a greater approximation to them. I am not aware that any attempt has been made to cross the acid with the sweet currants, which might so perhaps yield a new and pleasant fruit, and the attempt should be made."

Several of our friends will find their queries are attended to in the list of herbaceous plants. A paper on the carnation will be given in an early number.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR MAY.



### KITCHEN GARDEN.

**Beans.**—Where ground is unoccupied, and it is desirable to have a succession, *sow* as soon as those which were last put in are fairly above ground. It is a good plan to remove the tops as they come into flower ; it checks the sap, and is beneficial to the crop.



Sow a good breadth of Scarlet Runners; the seed is cheaper than usual, and as it is a most wholesome and productive vegetable, they will be found highly useful, especially should potatoes be again affected. Like every other crop, they are better when they have plenty of room; sow in drills four feet apart. In the summer of 1846, we saw them cultivated on the Continent most extensively, and one method, though occasionally adopted in this country, might be tried with advantage. Procure some stakes, ten or twelve feet long, sticking them in a circle and bending their tops together, which are made fast; beans are planted at the foot of each pole, and as they grow, twine round it; thus making a very nice arbour. The beans are easily gathered, standing inside. Though many of our suburban gardens have summer houses, we think this plan worth trying.

*Dwarf Kidney Beans*, should also now be planted. There are many fancy varieties; amongst the best, are Waite's Negro Major, and the Dun. They should be sown in drills, two feet apart, and though not so prolific as the Runner, still for forcing and for pickling, they are much esteemed.

*Brocoli, Brussels Sprouts, Borcole or Curled Kail, Savoy, &c., &c.*, should be got in for succession crops. There is a variety of curled brocoli remarkable for its dwarf habit, and beautiful curled leaves; it is sometimes used for garnishing.

*Cabbages*.—Sow Sprotborough for autumn use, and transplant from the seed beds in every vacant spot. Keep the hoe moving as opportunity serves, amongst the advancing crop, and draw the earth well up to their stems.

*Cress*.—Continue to sow as soon as the last makes its appearance. The curled is the preferable variety; but it sports more than parsley.

*Carrots*.—Be particular in thinning out this crop in good time, stirring the ground occasionally between the rows. The Altringham will require most room. Where large carrots are not required, of course they may be allowed to stand thicker together.

*Celery*.—Those who intend to exhibit, should now see to planting out their first crop, selecting the strongest plants; the weaker ones should be pricked out in rich soil, in order to strengthen for the next planting. We have lately received two varieties very highly spoken of, Mammoth and Williams's Self.

*Cauliflowers*.—Sow for the autumn crop. In planting out, the earth cannot be too rich; it must be borne in mind, that in dry inferior soil they are apt to button, and flower prematurely. Few plants appear more to enjoy occasional doses of liquid manure, and few vegetables profit by it more.

*Leeks*, when sufficiently large, should be transplanted. They delight in rich well manured soil.

*Lettuces*.—Sow for succession; the Artichoke-leaved is a singular looking sort, but has the property of standing long, without running to seed.

*Nasturtians*.—The seeds, in a green state, make an excellent pickle, and are used as a substitute for capers. They should be sown immediately, or perhaps a few plants may be obtained, if the sowing has been neglected. The *Canary Plant* (*Tropæolum peregrina*) is most beautiful, producing its seeds in vast profusion. We have not used them as the others, but doubtless they are adapted to the same purposes.

*Endive*.—The latter end of the month, sow the green curled.

*Onions*.—Keep free from weeds, and refer to Mr. Barnes' article, where the importance of frequent hoeing between the drills is strongly apparent. Do not be afraid of thinning, if large bulbs are required.

*Peas*.—Late peas are quite as valuable as early ones, therefore sow for succession, if more are required. If snails are troublesome, dust the plants as soon as they appear above ground with lime, soot, or salt; it is most effectual if done about ten o'clock at night.

*Potatoes*.—Flat hoe as soon as above ground; when they have advanced sufficiently, earth up the stems.

*Tomatoes, or Love Apple*.—These make excellent sauce, pickle, or preserves. The plants should be set close to palings, or a wall, and trained to it; they like a warm situation.

*Turnips*.—Snowball is a most excellent and handsome variety to sow now.

*Cucumbers*, for growing in the open air, on ridges, should be planted out without delay; covering, shading, and watering as they require it. It will also be advisable, should the weather appear clear and cold to give extra protection at night.

*Vegetable Marrows* may be also planted out and attended to, in a similar manner to *cucumbers*.

*Radishes*.—Sow turnip-rooted sorts as required. It is almost too late for *spinach*, but in cool situations it may be tried.

## FLOWER GARDEN.

This is a month when half hardy and tender plants are removed from pits and frames, to aid in the decoration of the flower border; and as our calendar would not be complete without noticing a few of those which are easily attainable, and well adapted for growing in clumps or masses, we shall give the names of a few most calculated to produce a fine effect.

First, then, is the *Pimpernel*. Most country people know a little red flower, produced on a trailing stem, which closes at the approach of rain, and is not inaptly termed "*the poor man's weather glass*;" its botanical name is *Anagallis arvensis*. There is also another, called *Anagallis cærulea*, bearing blue flowers. These have been improved on, and we have now similar trailing plants, but the flowers increased in size and brilliancy of colour. The best are *Anagallis grandiflora*, large deep red; *A. monelli major*, large bright blue; *A. Breweri*, large purple.

*Antirrhinums*, or *Snapdragons*, though rather tall, are extremely showy, and great improvement has taken place in them of late years. Last season we flowered the following:—*Splendens*, sulphur, with pink veins; *Brightii*, deep crimson scarlet; *Fowelii*, white, with scarlet and buff; *Lutea*, yellow. They are raised in endless variety from seed.

*Verbenas* are universal favourites, and many of them, from their dwarf growth and extreme brilliancy of colour, are especially adapted for *bedding out*. A namesake of ours, Mr. W. Wood, has a most excellent paper on this showy tribe, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, of the present year; and as we are not particularly anxious to borrow other people's ideas without acknowledging the source, we shall here mention those which are said to be the best in each class:—

*Scarlet*.—Wonder of Scarlets.

*Orange Scarlet*.—Gladiator.

*Crimson*.—Atrosanguinea.

*Red*.—Eliza.

*White*.—Mountain of Snow.

*Purple*.—Emma.

*Blue*.—Imperatrice Josephine.

*Carmine*.—Standard of Perfection.

*Dark Rose*.—Excelsa.

*Lavender*.—Haidee.

*Dark Maroon*.—Woodsii.

*Pale Salmon*.—Beauty of Saint John.

*Maroon Crimson*.—Ramona.

*Cherry Bloom, or White*.—Beauty.

*Rosy Lilac*.—Rendle's Beauty.

*French White, with Purple Centre*.—La Reine.

Of these, the only really upright variety is Ramona.

One or two of the *Æonotheras* are well adapted for masses, and as they are not quite hardy, at least in damp situations, they may take their place with the preceding plants. *Æonothera macrocarpa* (The Long-fruited *Æonothera*), and *Æonothera taraxifolia* (The Dandelion-leaved *Æonothera*), the former with large yellow flowers, and the latter with white, make a fine show during the autumn months.

*Salvias* are nearly as much in request as *verbenas*. Of these there is the *Patens*, with its beautiful blue flowers. By stopping the shoots and pegging down the laterals, the plant assumes a dwarf habit, and is superlatively beautiful. As a scarlet variety perhaps *Splendens* will be found as good as any.

*Petunias* and *Nirembergias* are abundant bloomers; the former are now produced in endless variety from seed.

*Lobelias*.—The taller ones are now very numerous, but few surpass *Ignea*, which is of an intense dark scarlet. They will grow in very moist situations. The little blue varieties, with very dwarf habit, are fit companions for the *verbena*, and as such are much cultivated.

In addition to the above, there are many hardy plants and annuals well adapted for masses, but want of space warns us to stop.

*Standard Roses*, will require the shoots on the stocks to be rubbed off; and as the buds grow, they must be secured, or they are apt to be blown out by the wind.

## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

*Tulips*, during this month, will require a great share of the florist's care. The nets must be kept over the rising blooms, till they are sufficiently advanced to have the top cloth, or awning, on. Exposure to a hailstorm now would ruin his hopes. As the blooms rise it will be necessary to support them; and sticks, having metallic wire attached, to go round each flower stem and hold it in its erect position, are the best. Do not forget to cross-breed some *tulips*, by applying the farina of one variety to the stigma of another. Always choose flowers with the best properties, as to shape and purity, you can meet with. After the flowers have once fully expanded, it will be advisable to watch them carefully as they close, as the petals will sometimes split each other; they should, therefore, be assisted where requisite, and a band of soft worsted tied round the cup.

As *Carnations* and *Picotees* are all potted, put the sticks to them, to which the rising stem must be tied.

*Pinks* should also have small, neat sticks put to them; and an occasional watering with liquid manure will be of service.

*Ranunculuses*.—The soil must be kept close to the stem of the plant. Seedlings should be encouraged to grow, by frequent waterings, &c.

*Pansies*, or *Heartsease*.—Strike the side shoots, in the shade, under glass. Top-dress the beds with very rotten manure, and water freely in dry weather.

*Dahlias*.—See the directions given for planting out, at page 129.

*Polyanthuses*.—If last year's seed is not sown, let it be done directly. Raise, if possible, in slight heat, and harden afterwards.

*Auriculas*, when out of bloom, should be put in a shady situation, but not where they will be neglected. If the pots are well drained, and the soil is suitable, they will take no harm from the weather. Avoid the drip of trees, if you would escape the *murrain* amongst your plants.

## FRUIT GARDEN.

Fruit trees should be examined for the mealy bug (*Aphis Lanigera*). Soot and train oil will destroy them; we are not sure whether a weak solution of glue, applied over them with a brush, would not be equally destructive; it would certainly be a much *sweeter application*. Fumigate *gooseberry trees*, as recommended in the answers to correspondents; and rub off buds, or young shoots, when branches are not wanted on fruit trees, whether on wall, espaliers, or pyramidal trees. It is better to do this now, than cut off the branches in autumn.

*Vine Trees*, on the open wall, should be attended to; bearing in mind that the wood which has once bore fruit never bears again.

## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ARE LOCAL OR OPEN MEETINGS MORE CONDUCTIVE  
TO THE INTERESTS OF FLORICULTURE?

ON the above subject, there must be a diversity of opinion, or we should not encounter from time to time, the strange anomaly of societies acting in direct opposition to each other, in this particular. We naturally inquire how is this; and what particular circumstances should justify conclusions so opposite. The main end of exhibitions is, or ought to be, to produce by prizes and honorary distinctions, a spirit of competition. The desire to excel, necessarily leads to the study of the means, and hence improvements; but the question is, whether this emulation can be best promoted by small local shows, or by exhibitions open (as they are usually termed) to all England. The former is the competition of individuals residing in the same neighbourhood; and of course enjoying the same advantages of situation, it becomes therefore rather a competition of stock than management, a trial of strength than merit; and the interest will be very much diminished by their previous knowledge of each others chances. One bad effect attending societies of this kind must arise from the fact that one or two individuals, possessing better collections than the rest, will carry off the principal prizes; and this, instead of a beneficial must have a most injurious effect, by deterring others, naturally fond of a garden, from ever attempting to compete with them. Another effect will be, that for those who already possess the mastery, there is no occasion and consequently no inducement either to increase their

stock by the acquisition of new varieties, or to be at much trouble in the means of cultivation. Hence it appears evident that local exhibitions have a prohibitory effect upon the spread of horticulture, and a paralysing influence upon emulation, and consequently upon the means of improvement. Now if this reasoning be true, it is no wonder that the duration of such societies is short; for if they derive any of their support from the public, they are answerable to it for the result, and must show that their patronage is producing a beneficial effect, or expect a withdrawal of it, on the ground that it is injudicious and consequently unnecessary. With horticulture in this state can we hope for improvement? The efforts of the public are neutralized by the want of stirring competition. And how shall this be remedied, if the competitors already fancy that they have arrived at the climax? If you wish for an answer to this question, throw open your exhibitions. Let competitors in from all sides. These will not only augment the funds of your societies, but will also give an importance to them which they had not before, by increasing their attractions, their popularity, and their usefulness. Distinctions conferred at open meetings are more flattering. A new spirit of emulation will spring up, and the good effects that this would have, will be perceptible at every succeeding exhibition. The supine would awake as from a dream, and they who fancied they had attained perfection, will have to stir themselves, lest they occupy the discouraging and to them the disgraceful position which their desponding and disheartened neighbours lately possessed. No one can doubt the beneficial effects which such a change would have. To me the idea of a close show is in itself a contradiction; for what does it mean, if it does not mean this, "An open show is injurious, because competition is unrestricted, and emulation unbounded; the effects are questionable, so we will have less of each, and less of effect will follow as a matter of course?" The con-

clusion from such reasoning is, that exhibitions of all kinds are an evil, and so will the public think, and act accordingly. But I will not willingly come to this conclusion; for the premises, viz. that a limited society, &c. is best, are founded in selfishness and nursed in ignorance: and I need only appeal to the members of any and every close society for confirmation of this, notwithstanding their conduct with regard to their own local affairs; and I could prove beyond doubt, that in public estimation an open meeting (and the larger the better) is the true theatre for testing productions, and the only place where satisfaction is to be met with for all parties. The opinion that open meetings are best seems to be gaining ground, from their general establishment; but there are some sorry exceptions still to be met with, which must astonish and disgust every enlightened friend to horticultural science. In attempting to account for it, we are compelled to ascribe it to that narrow, selfish principle which dreads competition, from a fear that its chance of success will be diminished by an influx of competitors; and thus the objects of societies, namely, improvements in horticulture, are sacrificed to the wishes of a few exhibitors. Societies of this kind only have their day; for the Argus-eyed public, ever watching the motives as well as the actions of men, will see through this trickery and abuse of their kindness, and will turn aside with the idea that instead of encouraging honourable competition and the means of excellence, they are fostering one of the worst of passions, viz. selfishness. These observations have reference only to such societies as derive part of their support from the public. I do not intend to condemn the efforts of amateur societies, whose resources are entirely within themselves, and who agree for pleasure's sake, to have a friendly competition; but even those societies would be better open, as extensively as possible, for the larger the field the greater the merit. In con-

clusion, I have only to observe, that in the above remarks, I have no other purpose to serve than the interests of florists and floriculture.

ALPHA,

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### PINKS.

I AM induced to offer a few remarks upon a subject of great importance, in the present advanced era of floriculture.

A question was put in your first number, by H. S. M., as to what was the difference of opinion between the northern and southern growers, in the standard of perfection for the pink. "A London Florist," instead of defining what really is the cause of difference between the northern and southern florists, talks about "fair specimens of Brown's Garland and Hall's Queen of England being the happy medium." Now why talk of a medium, when one known principle ought to govern from north to south? Adopt a known standard, say Glenny's, for instance, or any one elses, which may be equally good; let the judges at the principal shows, either in London, Derby, or elsewhere, be selected from different parts of the country, say one from Birmingham, one from London, and one from the north; let them be men well acquainted with the difference of opinion, and then I have no doubt but a proper understanding would be come to.

Now there can be but one opinion as to what is the principle which *dictates* the standard of perfection in all florists' flowers, so far as outline or form is concerned, and which in itself is purely mechanical; that is *the circle and half-circle* properly applied, in all its bearings.

The reason why, in the midland counties, and especially in Birmingham, the London-bred pinks



are not liked, is, that they are termed too full, too moppy, and they cannot dress or arrange the confused mass of petals so as to imbricate from the outer circle to the crown of the flower; it is not that they do not admire a full flower in preference to an empty one; and the same feeling prevails more north.

Now my opinion as to the difference between north and south is this, that the fault is in the petal of the flower. The predominating fault in all the London flowers is, that the petal is too long and too narrow, too much like a spoon. I need not speak of the difficulty of keeping a flower together, the petals of which are of this form. It takes eight, nine, or ten petals, and sometimes more, to form the guard, or outer row; and instead of each row imbricating as it should do, they decrease one or two petals in every row, up to the crown, which is a great drawback to uniformity of arrangement in the flower.

The varieties of pinks more north have the great fault of being too thin of petal, flat in the face of the flower, and empty in the centre; but they have this preference to breed from, over most of the southern-bred sorts, that they are broader and bolder in the petal, with more substance, a distinct lace or edge, and in most instances take but five or six petals to make a circle, which is more in accordance with our notions. We think that five petals only should make a circle, and those sufficiently broad to give each row the appearance of not being broken; and there being only five points in the calyx, the outer or guard row is sufficiently kept up. A flower of this make, with six tier of petals in it, each row decreasing in size up to the crown, with clear smooth edge, free from notch or serrature, and a dark bold lace, would be more like the standard by which pinks are judged here. Of course the same principle is applied to the light purple, red, and rose lace.

There are many other points which at a future time may be discussed with advantage. The carnation and picotee, I hope, will fall in for their share.

I may just observe, that Duke of Northumberland and Jones's Huntsman (a Wolverhampton flower), are very much esteemed here; and they are thought by many to be the only two flowers in advance towards our notion of a standard.

S. M.

*Birmingham, April, 1847.*

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### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES FOR THE YOUNG.

THE science (if such it may be called) of horticulture receives at the present day more than ordinary attention. The old and the young, rich and poor, grave and gay, of both sexes, are many of them its votaries. In almost every city or county, societies for its improvement are established; these, however, are generally suited to the experienced connoisseur and large cultivator, rather than to those whose means and opportunities are more limited.

Many of our young people are, I hope and believe, lovers of gardening; some few, perhaps, exhibit at our horticultural shows, but the generality of them have too strong a competitor in the experienced gardener to allow them to make the attempt. For such as these, I think it would be desirable to establish juvenile horticultural societies, open only to those who are under a certain age, say eighteen or nineteen. There would, of course, be many other minor regulations; a few suggestions concerning which, I shall be most happy to furnish, if you, or any of your correspondents, desire it.

By establishing juvenile societies, I think it is quite clear that the rising generation would receive the encouragement in the study of horticulture and floriculture which is at present inapplicable to most of them. The commencement should be made by our senior horticulturists, and I hope they will not lag behind; but be willing, if it be required, to give up even their own rights and benefits, and bestow

them upon the younger portion of their fraternity. The object of exhibitors is not, I think and hope, the intrinsic value of the prize; but to find by what method they can produce better flowers, fruits, and vegetables than those with whom they compete.

Surely, then, if we give the youthful florist an opportunity of trying *his* skill with those of *his own age*, we shall early encourage him in our favourite study, and thus give him a longer period for the trial of his skill and successful developement of his inclinations. And thus I believe we shall favourably and quickly increase the impetus of horticultural science, so that the next generation will thank us for having commenced the work which I here propose and now leave to others for further developement and fulfilment.

AN HORTICULTURALIST.

Norwich, March 17, 1847.

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## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF TULIPS.

BY ALPHA.

[Continued from page 70.]

**MARGRAVE DE BADEN.**—This fine bybloemen is justly esteemed a first class flower for a meeting. Its place is in the second row; it has a good cup, pure bottom, and is feathered and flamed with a beautiful violet.

**PROSERPINE JEWEL** is an interesting feathered bybloemen, pure, of good form, and worthy of a place in any collection. It is a first row flower.

**POMPE FUNEBRE.**—This old yet truly splendid flamed bizarre, still ranks high in its class. It is too long in the cup, but from its purity, elegance, and correct marking, will long be a favourite with florists. Its place is in the third row.

**SABLE KING.**—This variety was raised from seed by Mr. S. Bromley, Hooley Hill. It is a feathered bybloemen, pure, of good form, and when more plentiful, will, I think, take a high stand amongst our best competing varieties. The cup, in the breeder state, is rather long, but improves in this respect, when rectified.

**ST. SEBASTIAN** is a third row feathered bybloemen, broken from one of Clark's breeders. It is rather too long in the cup pure, and feathered with a deep purple.

**QUEEN ANN.**—This splendid flamed rose was raised from seed by an amateur in the north, and is still in very few hands. It is a second row flower, and from its purity, and its elegant and correct marking, may be considered one of the very best of its class.

**GRAND MONARCH.**—This is a noble third row flamed rose, pure bottom, well marked, and as a stage flower ought to be in the possession of every competitor.

**LADY GREY** was raised from seed by the late Mr. Haigh, of Ashton. It is well feathered with a deep rose, on a pure white ground; the cup is good, and it is remarkable that, notwithstanding its general purity, it has dark stamens. It is, nevertheless, desirable as a stage flower.

[To be continued.]



## THE CULTIVATION OF THE BALSAM.

I AM as much at a loss as your Sincere Friend to account for the cause why the balsam is not more extensively cultivated in this part of the country, and why a place is not assigned to it among florists' flowers. The balsam has now been grown in this country for two hundred and fifty years, yet how little, comparatively speaking, has been done towards improving this most beautiful of all our greenhouse annuals; and I am quite of an opinion with your correspondent, that if some of our florists would exert themselves, such improvements would be made as would leave this flower second to none of our much more expensive beauties. I have hitherto only grown the balsam with one object, namely, supplying my greenhouse stage on the decline of my geraniums; yet, as I have generally had good success, if the method I practice in growing them is of any use to your Sincere Friend, he is welcome to it. Having prepared the soil (of which hereafter), sow the seeds thinly in pots, in the second, third, or last week in August, and then plunge the pots in sixty-five to seventy-five degrees of heat, gently sprinkling the surface of the soil with water till the plants make

their appearance, which they will do in a few days. I then remove them as near the light as possible, till they are from three to four inches high, when I transplant them into quart pots, either singly or two in a pot (but for specimen plants they are the best single), continuing to keep them as near the light as possible, and plentifully supplying them with water. In a few weeks the pots will become full of roots; I then remove them into pots two or three sizes larger, and water them profusely, if the weather is hot. When the pots again become too small, I give them their final potting into peck pots; at the same time beginning to supply them with liquid manure, and always taking care to remove them so far distant as not to let them touch each other, frequently turning them round to keep them upright and all sides alike, giving copious waterings of liquid manure at an interval of three or four days.

Throughout the whole stage of their brief existence I am always careful to give them *plenty of air*, for to draw them up would spoil them; *plenty of water*, for any deviation from that would check them; *plenty of pot room*, for without that you can neither obtain handsome plants nor large blooms; and *plenty of attention*, because they demand it.

A few words about the kind of soil I use, and I have done. Take of well decayed manure, from an old cucumber bed, as much as will make about one-third of the soil which you may be likely to want, one-third of good rich loam, one-sixth peat or decayed vegetable mould, one sixth white sand, and incorporate a few months previous to using. Use a coarse sieve, or break fine and use no sieve; the same soil through a fine sieve is proper for sowing the seed in.

If your Sincere Friend will follow my advice, I have no doubt that when in a few months, he finds himself possessed of some good plants, three feet high, ten feet round, and bearing near one hundred fine blooms, he will be quite satisfied with his experiment.

If you think the foregoing remarks worth a place in your excellent little work, they are at your service ; if not, you may give them to your Sincere Friend, if you know where to find him.

ARISTATA.

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## CULTIVATION OF THE CUCUMBER.

BY MR. JOHN SPENCER, OF ADBOLTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

IN contributing to the *Midland Florist* a few remarks on the growth of the cucumber in frames, I may differ from the general rules laid down by various authors ; but all will admit, the quicker the growth the better the fruit. It is doubtless a general desire to have it early, and it is unquestionably true, that the flavour of the cucumber is never so delicate, neither is the smell so refreshing, as when it is raised on a hot bed, or at least by the means of artificial heat.

The first consideration is the bed and frame in which they are to grow. I take fresh stable dung, and if very much saturated with urine, &c. mix with it any dry litter, or saw dust, which is preferable, because it retains heat longer before decomposition takes place ; it will even become dry, and can then be saturated again, when it will produce fresh heat.

The greatest difficulty with many artizans is the distance of their gardens from home, which must necessarily prevent their attempting to grow the cucumber, for the frame requires particular attendance during the great heat arising from the first fermentation, which must be allowed to subside into a temperature genial to the growth of the plants, consequently much time is lost. When thus reduced it soon requires lining, but to obviate this difficulty, I have found that the bed may be adapted for the reception of plants much earlier, by a process which I have never seen treated upon by any author. When

the frame is placed upon the manure, the lights should be on ; they will greatly assist in raising the heat, which in the course of a few days will be very strong. The plan I then follow is to take a sufficient quantity of boiling water, and with a watering pan with the rose on, freely sprinkle the whole surface of the manure, by which means the rank heat is destroyed and a genial temperature produced ; sometimes it is necessary to repeat the watering. Then procure a large turf sod, place it with the turf side downwards in the centre of the light under which the plants are to grow, to prevent the soil being burnt or the roots injured by a greater heat than they can sustain. Take a quantity of soil prepared for the purpose, and make a mound in the centre, within six inches of the light ; as soon as it has become of the same temperature as the frame, it is ready to receive the plants, which should be strong and healthy, in rough leaf, and grown in a single pot. Insert them in the mound up to the guard or seed leaves, and when the small white roots make their appearance through the mound, continue to add more soil, until the whole interior of the frame is covered level. When a plant has attained three or four joints, stop it, by pinching off the ends, which causes it to branch from the joints. If air is sufficiently admitted, fruit will begin to show upon the third or fourth joint of the branch, which branch again must be stopped at the second joint from the fruit, which checks the luxuriance of the branch and stimulates it. Impregnation from the male blossoms has been of necessity recommended, but the cucumber can produce its fruit without the male blossom, though *that fruit will not produce seed*.

The kindest and best flavoured cucumbers are produced by quickness of growth. In order to facilitate this, a few strips of wood or lattice-work must be laid across the frame, under the mat or covering, so as to permit a free circulation of air between it and the glass ; the plants will not be so

liable to receive a check when the frame is uncovered and the fresh air admitted, which should be done as soon as the sun has any influence in the morning, as heat, light, and air are three great essentials to the growth of the cucumber.

I shall here introduce another hint, on the management of the frame during the day. After they are uncovered in the morning, it is necessary to admit fresh air, which should be done by tilting the lights at the back of the frame; but never draw up one and push down the other, which causes a current to pass over the plants, and proves detrimental to their growth. Sometimes, for want of a sufficient quantity of air, the fine broad leaves begin to droop. Before the sun has attained its meridian is the time to water, which should be given of the same temperature as the frame, and through as fine a rose as can be procured; water over the whole surface of the plants, and then shut them down; then take three or four large pansful of cold water, and pour over the surface of the glass, which will cool it, while the heat inside the frame may be eighty or ninety degrees. Under this treatment, the plants will now be growing with great luxuriance, and neither aphis, red spider, nor other insect will be able to do them any injury.

Allow me here to observe, that the plants cannot endure the heat, if the glass is allowed to become *hot*. This method is excellent in producing quickness of growth in the cucumber, as well as some other plants; and under this treatment, I have observed cucumbers grow three inches in twenty-four hours.

The glass being cooled by the water which has been poured over it, *condenses* the moisture in the frame, and produces the beautiful dew, which is very conspicuous on the leaves, and is highly beneficial to the plants. It sometimes occurs that there is more fruit upon them than they can possibly support; when this happens, they more particularly require the above treatment, because three or four of the fruit will take the lead, while the others remain stationary; and if



the leading fruit cannot be grown and cut in a reasonable time, the others will begin either to curl or decay at their blossom ends, and all the successional fruit thus become abortive.

Several new and fine varieties have been originated in this neighbourhood, from the Infant cucumber, which I introduced about ten years ago, and which still continues a great favourite. It is always to be found amongst the first prizes, at the exhibitions in the county.

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### B U D D I N G .

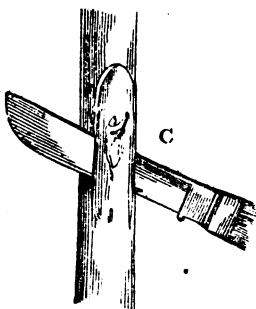
As our directions for grafting appear to have given many of our readers satisfaction, and having promised to tell them something about budding, we shall now endeavour to redeem that promise, by giving the necessary directions for performing this interesting operation, in as simple and intelligible a manner as possible. Our descriptions, we hope, will be sufficient for the artizan and amateur: the professional man, or those acquainted with the business, we do *not pretend* to teach.

Some things, such as cherries, pears, thorns, roses, &c. take (or grow) with little difficulty, whilst others do not succeed so well, unless worked (or budded) on a stock congenial to their habits. For instance, some of the finer peaches *miserably exist* on the Muscle plum-stock, on which the majority of peaches and nectarines thrive; the French Mignon and Violet Hatif requiring the Pear plum-stock; and the Persian yellow rose appears to be extremely short-lived on the common dog rose, at least in this part of the country.

We will suppose that the amateur has a dog rose stock, the variety budded on it previously having died. This stock emits a shoot, or shoots, varying from the size of a goose-quill to the thickness of his little

finger; growing thus luxuriantly, he is desirous of replacing the head as cheaply as possible, having before paid for one, and this feat he endeavours to accomplish by *budding*.

It will be necessary, in the first place, to procure the *means and appliances*, namely, a proper knife, some strips of Russian matting, and a cutting of some favourite rose, which should be of the current year's growth. The knife should be thin in the blade, and sharp, having a small piece of ivory at the lower part of the handle, with which to raise the bark of the stock. We have for years used a surgeon's dissecting knife or scalpel, and find nothing better. The matting for tying should be slightly moistened, and the cutting should just have accomplished its summer's growth. Having removed the thorns from



the shoot as near as possible to the main stem or upright stock, the operator may take the cutting in his left hand, inserting his knife about half an inch above the bud he may have taken a fancy to, as shown in the figure (C); the thumb of the right hand may press very slightly on the bark, just below the bud, which will steady the operation, and thus enable him carefully to bring out the

knife about half an inch below it. The piece of bark thus cut away is termed the shield, and of course has a thin portion of the wood brought away with it. The next point is to turn the shield round, with the wood towards the operator; he must then gently cut the lower part of the shield to a point, by two slanting cuts. Roses will grow with this wood remaining in the bark, so will rhododendrons and some others, but it will be found the best plan to remove it. When the cuttings are in a good working state, the wood

may be taken out without injury to the root of the bud, and as this is a subject of paramount importance, it will be necessary to detail the process. The shield, or piece of bark, is taken between the finger and thumb of the left hand, holding it with a slight pressure immediately below the bud; then, holding the knife with the four fingers of the right hand, its point is inserted at the top, between the wood and the bark; it is then pressed against the tip of the thumb, and the wood being thus held firmly between the thumb and the knife, it is carefully pulled over and broken as near the bud as possible, in the centre of the shield. The lower part will then require removing; this is effected by still holding the shield in the left hand, and inserting the thumb nail of the right hand between the wood and the bark, at the lower extremity, the knife point being placed immediately over the bud; the wood is then raised, whilst the knife is gently pressed, thus causing the bud to separate easily from the wood. The wood will often come clean out, without this precaution, and it is only now described to prevent disappointment to the uninitiated.

The shield is now placed between the lips of the operator, which in some degree hinders the action of the air on the sap, prevents the bud getting dry, and at the same time sets his hands at liberty. He then takes the shoot or stock in his left hand, first having removed the thorns, if a rose briar, and with his knife makes first a horizontal cut, and then one lengthways, on the shoot, something like the letter T, as seen in the annexed wood cut (H), giving his knife a slight lift when he reaches the top, or cross-cut; this raises the corner of the bark, and he will find no difficulty in inserting the ivory, and raising the bark as intimated by the dotted lines; keeping the bark slightly raised with the ivory, he takes the shield from his lips with his left hand,





and pushes it down the cut, as shown in fig. K. It will here be perceived that the upper part of the shield protrudes above the horizontal cut; this must be cut off, when the bark will immediately fit close. We have seen clumsy workmen push the bark down, without making it meet—men who would not give themselves the trouble to think—and though the buds will grow, even when this essential point has been neglected, still it is by no means a safe or advisable plan, for the descending sap coming in contact with the upper part of the shield, will immediately form a junction, and thereby render the operation comparatively certain.

The next point to be considered is *tying*; if this is performed carelessly or loosely, it will make against the well-doing of the bud, and the whole will be labour in vain. Some writers recommend tape, worsted, &c., as substitutes for bast matting, but having used the latter through a long series of years, we do not find that there is anything better. It is essential that it should be *new* and tough, and there is a very great difference in Russia mats, as every nurseryman well knows. The strips of matting should be moistened, which will make them work or



tie easier and better. The operator having inserted the bud as directed, should now take a strip of mat and place it at the back of the shoot, half an inch below the longitudinal incision, holding about six inches in his left hand, he may then begin to pass the strip of matting from right to left, the forefinger and thumb of the left hand returning it round the back part of the stock to the right hand; thus regularly and tightly lapping it round the shoot, till he arrives at the bud, which of course he leaves exposed, as seen at L,

in the annexed figure; he will continue to pass the matting round, just above the horizontal cut, when part of the six inches of matting which he held on the left of the shoot, when he began tying, will enable him to make both ends fast, either in a knot or single loop. Where a great quantity are budded, as in nursery grounds, the latter is the better plan, as they are easily untied and re-fastened, when from the swelling of the stock it is found necessary to loosen them.

The amateur must bear in mind, that in the strict attention to the above directions depends his chances of success. It is best to bud in the evening (though we have for weeks budded through some of the hottest days of summer); and it will be found a tolerably sure guide to observe that the working of plum, pear, and apple stocks should not be delayed after the terminal buds are formed in the current year's shoots; and as dog rose stocks are often left with two or more shoots, should his first trial fail, he will have an opportunity of repeating it, by budding another shoot.

We think our artizan readers will now be able to manage this little matter for themselves. Next July and August will be a fitting time for them to make the experiment; and as we have not more room to spare just now, if further information is required, they may have it on making application.

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#### A FEW WORDS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF APPOINTING COMPETENT JUDGES AT FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

It is almost an absurdity to urge upon the attention of societies any self-evident proposition; or to remind them of a duty, which the importance of the duty itself strongly recommends: and were it not a fact known to all, that the appointment of disinterested and competent judges is one of the first things that

ought to be attended to, and yet is almost invariably left to the very moment when they are wanted, I should feel ashamed to allude to it. The question, why are societies so indifferent on this head? naturally arises. I will not pretend to answer why; but I will affirm that it is a fact, and one too fraught with mischief. No good can result from this most common of all errors in societies, but much evil it has done, and ever will do, so long as they neglect the most important of all their arrangements. I have no doubt, that to this source, more than any, nay, than all others, is to be ascribed the breaking up of societies; for what can be so offensive and disappointing as erroneous decisions? and what can give such just and general cause for unpleasant remarks, as to see inferior specimens distinguished, to the prejudice and even exclusion of superior ones? This subject is of sufficient importance to merit a long and careful consideration; and the only excuse I would offer for not pursuing it farther is, that societies need not to be convinced of the evil, but only reminded of it.

AN EXHIBITER.

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### RHODODENDRONS ADAPTED FOR THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

As many trees and plants endure the winter in Devonshire and Cornwall, and are then said to be hardy, which, when planted in Nottinghamshire and other midland counties, prove the reverse, I conceive that your readers would be doing the cause of floriculture much service, if they would enumerate any new and good plants which have stood the severity of the past winter, in this and the neighbouring counties. By this means we should avoid the mortification and loss which is too often experienced, through our ignorance of this most important matter.

As a commencement, I will observe, that I grow

about thirty varieties of rhododendron; my soil is strong loam, the situation low and shady, and the plants have not had the slightest protection.

*Rhododendron Robustum*.—A new and splendid variety, and as its name would imply, *robust* in every sense of the word.

*R. Vanhouetii*.—The tips of the leaves slightly browned.

*R. Glennyana*.—In a similar condition to the foregoing.

*R. Variegata*.—Perfectly hardy. A good well marked variety.

*R. Roseum elegans pictum*.—Very slightly touched.

*R. Arboreum album*.—Killed.

*R. Caucasicum arboreum*.—Leaves totally destroyed, but the plant putting out again.

*R. Venustum*.—Not a leaf injured.

*R. Grandiflorum*.—A most splendid variety, and perfectly hardy.

*R. Splendidum*.—Now (12th May) most beautifully in bloom; very early and an abundant flowerer. Not a leaf injured.

*R. Nivaticus*.—Proves itself quite hardy.

*R. Spectabile*.—Very hardy. Uninjured.

*R. Osbornesana*.—Not killed, but seriously injured.

*R. Victoria*.—Early, and beautifully in flower. Robust habit.

*R. Ponticum grandiflorum*.—Well set with bloom, the foliage fine green.

*R. Pictum*.—Uninjured.

*R. Campanulatum*.—This fine sort is very slightly injured.

*R. Cunninghamii*.—Appears perfectly hardy.

*R. Fulgidum* (Smith's).—This fine variety is quite uninjured.

*R. Albertii*.—A beautiful sort, quite hardy.

*R. Berg de Vesuve*.—Killed early in the winter.

*R. Invictum*.—The foliage slightly browned.

*R. Willsonii*.—Quite hardy.

*R. Cartoneana*.—Very slightly hurt.

*R. Ennendria*.—Singularly small foliage. Unhurt.

*R. Catawbiense variegata*.—A good gold stripe. Uninjured.

*R. Imbricata*.—Of singularly compact habit, pretty, and perfectly hardy.

*R. Triomphe de Gand*.—Dead.

From the foregoing, purchasers will be able to ascertain what varieties are proved to suit this part of the country, and I think it will be found useful. I hope I shall not be too sanguine, if I trust that others of your readers will contribute similar information, which will (if anything were required) increase the value of your most excellent publication.

H. S. M.

12th May.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

HAVING heard of the extreme productiveness of the ABERDEEN BEEHIVE STRAWBERRY, we wrote to Mr. Matthewson, requesting information relative to it, and he has obligingly furnished us with the following particulars:—"It was raised by me, in 1844, along with many more seedlings. It showed fruit in 1845. The first gathering from one plant amounted to fifteen ounces weight of ripe berries; it threw 31 clusters of fruit the same year, which amounted to 639 berries. The next year, 1846, the same plant threw 120 clusters, 1160 berries of the brightest red colour, round in shape, about the size of a nutmeg, and well flavoured."

HUNT'S ROYAL NONPAREIL.—This apple was introduced to the notice of the London Horticultural Society, some years ago, by the late Thomas Hunt, Esq., of Stratford-on-Avon; and on that occasion, was highly praised for its qualities, as a dessert fruit. It was modelled in wax, by the society, a copy of which was presented to Mr. Hunt, and is now in the possession of his son, W. O. Hunt, Esq., solicitor, who occupies and attentively cultivates the garden, with its choice fruit trees, planted by his father. The apple which was sent to the society was thirteen inches in circumference, and weighed upwards of thirteen ounces. It was produced against a wall of southern aspect, where the original tree now grows, in vigorous health. To Mr. W. O. Hunt we are indebted for specimens of this fine fruit, which is certainly of



first-rate quality. This gentleman informs us that it was propagated by his father, from a seed of the old Nonpareil, to which it bears some resemblance, but is decidedly handsomer. The Royal Nonpareil is not brilliant in colour, but of regular and handsome shape, somewhat flattened, and indistinctly lobed. The eye is slightly depressed, rather open, the sepals being short. The stem short, in a deepish narrow cavity. Its ground colour is a yellowish green, with russety specks, and on some parts the russet is finely diffused, spreading in mossy veins; and the exposed side tinted with soft brown. Its flesh is greenish white, crisp, smooth, and juicy; possessing a most grateful and refreshing mixture of sugar and acid, with a pleasant vinous flavour. The admirers of the old Nonpareil will here find their favourite exceeded in size and beauty, and equalled in its still more valuable properties of consistence and flavour. As faithful biographers, however, we must call especial notice to the favourable circumstances under which this tree has lived; it has luxuriated on a wall of the best aspect, as previously mentioned; and Mr. Hunt informs us that he is not aware of its ever having been cultivated as a standard. Its growth is exceedingly free and healthy, it is an excellent bearer, and scarcely can a doubt be entertained but that, as a standard or garden dwarf, it would be quite successful.—*Maund's Botanic Garden.*

**THE VICTORIA PLUM.**—A correspondent has asked our opinion of the above, and for some account of its history; the former we are happy to be able to give in the most unqualified favourable manner. We know it to be a most astonishingly free bearer, and, to our taste, of excellent quality. Of its history we have been obliged with the following particulars, by Mr. Denyer himself, in which it will be seen that "honour is given where honour is due." Dr. Denyer takes no more credit to himself than what he is justly entitled to, namely, that of proving the originality of the

variety, and providing for the supply of the public. If we were only going to plant two plum trees, the Victoria should be one of them. "The Denyer's Victoria plum has been fruited by Mr. Myatt, of Camberwell, for upwards of twenty years, by whom it was brought from a cottage garden at Robertsbridge, in Sussex, a seedling, and having proved it to be the most certain and free bearing plum known, and of the finest quality, about fourteen years since Mr. Myatt kindly gave me some grafts of this plum, saying it was one that ought to be worked and brought into notice, and a good name given to it. I then grafted a few trees, and planted a two years' trained one against a north west-wall, and, to my astonishment, it bore three fruit the first year, thirty-six the second year, and eighty-four the third year. Having thus proved it, I proposed to Mr. Myatt to take some of the fruit to the horticultural gardens at Chiswick, and he accompanied me, to show Dr. Lindley, to ascertain whether there was in their collection a plum like it. After Mr. Thompson had kindly made a strict search over the stock of plum trees in the garden, and also the book of drawings for fruit, no plum like it could be found, and it was then pronounced to be a distinct variety. I then gave it the name of 'Denyer's Victoria Plum,' and advertised it in the autumn of the same year, and the demand for it has increased every succeeding year."—*Florist's Journal*.

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### GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**CAMELLIA DAVIESII.**—Deep rose colour, of beautiful form, rising well in the centre. The foliage and general habit of the plant are good, and altogether we recommend it as a first-rate variety.

**PETUNIA. *Bell's Cleopatra.***—A very round and fine flower, with dark red stripes on a pale ground,

## FUCHSIAS.

**SNOWDROP.**—Tube and sepals creamy white, the latter are broad and have slight green tips, with a scarlet corolla, which approaches nearer to the colour of a scarlet geranium than any fuchsia yet out. The flowers attain a large size.

**CHARLES HOOTON.**—Of large size and perfect form, tube and petals rich pink, corolla beautiful red, and of first-rate habit.

[The above two fine varieties were raised at Highfield House, near Nottingham, the seat of Alfred Lowe, Esq.]

**DUKE OF CORNWALL.**—This is unquestionably the finest light variety every yet raised. It has a tube nearly two inches long, of a delicate flesh colour, with fine expansive petals of the same tinge. Corolla, good and perfect, forming a strong contrast by its deep salmon hue. Habit vigorous and luxuriant, its fine foliage being constantly relieved by the profusion of trusses of this charming novelty. It has received two premier prizes.

**CONQUEROR.**—This is a magnificent variety, and will form the gem of any collection for boldness, symmetry, and texture. Colour, bright red, with petals finely reflexed, displaying its beautifully cupped corolla, of a deep lake colour, to great advantage: pistula firm and proportionate, completing its pleasing tout-ensemble. Nor is the habit unworthy of it, being dense and luxuriant in the extreme, but does not in any way hide the redundancy of its blooming.

**STAR OF THE WEST.**—This is an improvement on Smith's Queen Victoria, possessing a remarkable substance of flower, devoid of coarseness. It is superior to Queen Victoria, its corolla being of a deep rose colour, which is dispersed in tints very beautifully over the upper part of the petals. The habit is good and vigorous.

**APOLLO AND ROSALIA.**—Are two excellent flowers of the richest and darkest hues, of large size, possessing excellent habits. Apollo received the first seedling prize at the Truro spring exhibition.

## T R E E S.

We have now pendulous varieties of many of the denizens of our forests, some of which are pre-eminently graceful. Amongst others lately introduced to public notice, and which will doubtless prove extremely valuable, being so hardy an evergreen, is the Weeping Holly (*Ilex aquifolium pendulum*). This, a few years ago, was noticed in the garden of Dr. Haygate, of Derby, by whom scions were most liberally distributed. Messrs Wilson and Sadler, of that town, having some tall holly hedges, had them trimmed and grafted, and they have now formed most beautiful trees, many of the stems being from twelve to fifteen feet in height, and are extremely ornamental.

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## HALF HARDY PLANTS.

**SALVIA GESNERIFLORA.** (*Gesnera-like-flowered Sage.*)—This very beautiful variety has brilliant scarlet flowers, produced in great profusion. It is well adapted either for bedding out or for the greenhouse.

**PENTSTEMON MINIATUS.** (*Vermilion Pentstemon.*)—A very handsome half shrubby perennial plant, similar in habit, and requiring like treatment with *Pentstemon gentianoides*, &c. It will require protection in severe winters, and is easily increased from cuttings or seeds. It is figured in the *Botanical Register*, and will doubtless prove a valuable addition to plants for bedding out.

**LOBELIA FULGENS PRÆCOX.** (*Early Scarlet Lobelia.*)—This may likewise be added to the above, as a most desirable plant for summer decoration. It throws up spikes of flowers, the most dazzling scarlet imaginable, and continues in flower till late in the autumn.

## HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**ANDROSACE LANUGINOSA.** (*Shaggy-leaved Androsace.*)—This is a dwarf spreading plant, with pink flowers, having a yellow centre. It is well adapted for rock-work, and will bloom through the autumnal months. Its blossoms are abundantly produced.

**AQUILEGA JUCUNDA.** (*Joyous Columbine.*)—A hardy and beautiful variety, of dwarf and compact habit; flowers of bright blue. It attains the height of a foot, and flowers from June to August.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## ROSES.

SOME of our readers are fond of *large roses*. We give the names of six, and having grown them all, can testify to the correctness of the description. They are really very fine and splendid varieties.

**La Reine** (The Queen).—A hybrid perpetual, of much beauty, colour rosy pink, very sweet, an excellent forcing rose in wet weather. It occasionally does not open well in the open air.

**William Jesse.**—A hybrid perpetual, not however so constant in giving autumnal flowers as many others in this group; colour light crimson, tinged with lilac; very fragrant, flowers open freely.

**Souvenir de Malmaison.**—A Bourbon rose of great beauty; it is evidently the result of a cross with a tea-scented rose. Colour pale flesh, tinted with fawn; slightly fragrant, well adapted for exhibition in pots, forces well, flowers are often four to five inches across, and finely shaped; opens freely.

**Calypso.**—A damask rose, partaking much of the character of a hybrid China rose. Colour pale rose, flowers very large and very double; they do not open well in wet seasons.

*Brennus*.—A well known hybrid China rose. Colour bright red, flowers very large and generally well shaped; they open well in all seasons.

*Chenédolé*.—A hybrid China rose, of most vigorous habit. Colour bright vivid crimson, flowers like those of *Brennus*, rather flat or saucer shaped; petals very broad; they open freely in all seasons.

*Triomphe de Jansens*.—A rich and brilliant crimson, flowers very double and full sized.

As perfection in form ought always to be kept in view, we shall now give six finely-shaped varieties:—

*Kean*.—Of the same family, namely *Rosa Gallica*. Colour nearly scarlet, flowers elegantly cupped; a most beautiful rose.

*Coupe de Hebé*. (Hebe's Cup).—A hybrid Bourbon rose. Colour delicate rose, often shaded with pink; a vigorous growing and superb kind.

*La Volupté*.—A hybrid Provins. Colour deep rose; large, very double, and of the most perfect cupped form.

*Rose Devigne*.—A hybrid Provins. Colour delicate pink; very beautiful.

*Boula de Nantieu*.—A variety of *Rosa Gallica*, now a very popular rose, and deservedly so. Colour crimson purple; flowers very large and double, cupped when first open, afterwards the centre of the flower rises, and it partially loses its cupped form.

*Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide.*

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF GOOD SHOW CINERARIAS.

*Sapphire* (Ivery's).—A compact and good shaped flower; colour dark rich blue self, petals broad, round, and smooth on the edge.

*Nobilis* (Ivery's).—A large and beautiful shaped flower; colour white ground, with petals deeply edged with dark lilac.

*Royal Crimson* (Henderson's).—A good shaped flower, colour a rich crimson self, petals broad, firm in texture, and smooth on the edges.

*Brilliant* (Ivery's).—Form good, colour a dark rose self, petals broad and of good shape.

*Vernalis* (Henderson's).—A good flower, colour a dark blue self with a fiery centre, petals broad, firm, and even on the edges.

*Fairy Queen* (Ivery's).—A good shaped flower, colour a white self, petals broad, round and smooth on the edges, and very compact.

*Conqueror* (Ivery's).—Form good, colour a dark blue self, petals of good substance and smooth on the edges.

*Land Steward's Journal.*

## DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF SHOW AURICULAS.

[Continued from page 129.]

### WHITE-EDGED.

*Taylor's Favourite*.—Fine tube and paste, ground colour dark, rather broad, pip too starry, and folds back if it gets much heat.

*Taylor's Incomparable*.—Fine tube and paste, colour very rich deep purple, rather broad, pip large, round, and flat. A very fine flower.

*Wood's Delight*.—Tube rather large, ground of a dark crimson, very regular pip, round and flat, paste rather coarse.

*Thorpe's Magpie*.—A new flower; tube too large and very watery, indeed about the worst an auricula could have; paste fine, ground colour dark, a little pouncy (or tinged with farina); pip round, very uneven, or wavy. This flower has been much praised. In my opinion it is about the worst of its class. It is very like Hughes's Pillar of Beauty, and quite inferior to it. However, florists may judge for themselves, as I write my own opinion, without fear or prejudice.

*Ashton's Bonny Lass*.—Fine tube and paste, ground of a dark crimson, pip round and flat. This is a very handsome variety.

*Lee's Bright Venus*.—Fine paste, tube too large, and frequently comes distorted (or monstrous), ground dark crimson, nearly black, with a fine dense edge, makes a large plant, and strong trusser. This is an old variety, and still a favourite.

*Wild's Bright Phæbus*.—Has a good tube, quite large enough, ground colour is very dark, but much too broad for the edge. Unlike most of the white-edged, there is no farina on the plant.

*Kenyon's Lord Chancellor*.—Tube round and large, ground dark and broad, pip round and flat. Upon the slightest exposure to the sun, the ground colour bleaches out.

*Poppewell's Conqueror*.—Round tube, rather large, colour a brownish red, pip round and flat. This is a very indistinct looking flower, as the ground colour is not dense enough.

*Hughes's Pillar of Beauty*.—Tube round and watery, paste fine, colour black, pip round and very wavy, or crimped.

*Lee's Earl Grosvenor*.—Fine tube and paste, colour black and regular, pip large, round, and flat. This is a late variety, very splendid, both as a plant, for habit, size of truss, and beauty. I consider it one of the best grown, if not the best of its class.

*Lightbody's Fair Flora*.—A new flower, very fine tube and paste, the ground colour rich, although feathery, the pip very flat. This is a very pleasing variety.

*Lightbody's Fair Maid*.—Very fine tube and paste, ground colour rich dark crimson, sometimes a little pouncy, pip large, rather late, and hard to open.

*Ashworth's Regular*.—Worthy of its name, as it is a very neat flower; the pip is round and flat, but small.

*Campbell's Robert Burns*.—Fine tube and paste, colour rich crimson, very regular, pip round and flat.

*Taylor's Glory*.—Has a good tube, paste fine but not circular, ground colour crimson, breaks through the edge, the pip stiff and round. This is a favourite flower. In my opinion it is much overrated.

#### SELFS.

*Smith's Mrs. Smith*.—Fine tube and dense paste; however, scarcely circular; colour of a very rich plum, pips large, round, and flat; one of the finest selfs grown, makes a splendid plant and large truss.

*Netherwood's Othello*.—Fine tube and circular paste, colour very rich dark brownish crimson. This variety should be bloomed in the shade, as the pips have a tendency to fold back. It makes a very handsome plant and large truss.

*Berry's Lord Lee*.—Should be classed as an alpine; the colour is a bright red; makes a very small plant.

*Martin's Miss Martin*.—This is a very pretty variety; the colour has a tint of pink in it.

*Martin's Mayfield*.—Of the same style as the above; the colour has a tint of pink in it.

*Martin's Eclipse*.—A fine dark self, of good habit and large truss. This variety requires heat to open well, the pips being cupped.

*Kaye's Jupiter*.—Has a fine tube and dense fine paste, the colour of a rich dark plum, the pips round and flat. The stem of this variety is too short, scarcely showing the truss above the foliage, which gives it a stunted appearance, and detracts much from its beauty.

*Barker's Nonsuch*.—A very fine flower, of a dark plum colour, with a light shade; pips circular and flat; makes a handsome plant.

*Berry's Lord Primate*.—A beautiful dark self, of a maroon colour, very perfect and neat; its only fault is the small size of the pips.



*Gorton's Stadtholder*.—A yellow self. It forms a pleasing contrast in a stage. The paste is too narrow, although round.

*Bradshaw's Listy*.—A dark blue, makes a small plant, the stem too short.

*Redman's Metropolitan*.—A dark blue self. I think this variety and Glegg's Apollo the same.

*Whittaker's True Blue*.—As its name implies, is of a fine blue colour. The plant is of small habit, and the pips are hard to open, as they are apt to come what florists term cupped.

L. JUNIOR.

## AZALEAS.

WE give from the *Florist's Journal*, the following list of twelve fine Indian azaleas, which accompanies an excellent article on their cultivation :—

*Broughtonii*.—Carmine red, fine habit, free flowerer.

*Carminata*.—Very deep rose, rich and pleasing.

*Double Red*.—Free flowerer, bright red, showy.

*Fulgens*.—Scarlet, large flowers, good habit.

*Gledstanesii formosa*.—White, with pink stripes, first-rate shape, rather delicate habit.

*Lateritia formosa*.—Bright orange red, exquisite form, free bloomer, pendant habit.

*Magnifica*.—Rose, very large and showy.

*Murryana*.—Rosy lilac, one of the largest, vigorous habit, and flowers freely.

*Optima*.—Rich deep reddish scarlet, vigorous habit, fine shape, abundant bloomer.

*Phœnicia alba*.—The largest and best of the whites.

*Speciosissima*.—Richly spotted on the upper petals, free in growth and in blooming.

*Triumphans*.—Large deep rose, with a tinge of lilac, spotted thickly with rich crimson on the upper portion of the flower; a first-rate variety.

## RAISING DOUBLE FLOWERS FROM SEED.

IN raising double or full flowers from seed, we should carefully guide our attempts by experience; in procuring the seed, we must get it from the most double flowers we can, as the progeny always bears more or

less resemblance to the parent. In the dahlia, the flower is not, strictly speaking, full; it belongs to the compound class, in which a great number of florets are arranged on one common receptacle; in single dahlias, and other flowers of this class, the ray or outer row of florets has the petals fully evolved and coloured; in the florets of the centre or disk, the petal is only in the state of a small tube, inside of which the stamens are situated. Rich cultivation forces these tubes to assume the state of coloured petals; sometimes tubular, as in the quilled dahlias; and sometimes flosculose or flattened, as in others: sometimes the stamens are changed into petals; sometimes they are abortive; but generally, both these and the pistillum are unchanged, and hence there is little difficulty in getting seed from dahlias. Though the way in which dahlias come to be full is thus different from roses, &c., yet luxuriance of growth is here also the apparent cause, the most double flower is always from the most vigorous plant. In cold summers we have seen the *Glory of Plymouth* get perfectly full to the centre by introducing a branch into the inside of a vinery, while all the other flowers on the plant outside were deficient. Plants that are full of double flowers at one time, when the plant is vigorous, will change and come more single when checked by bad weather, or when the plant begins to ripen and get woody. In the cultivation of dahlias also, as checking at one time causes luxuriance afterwards to have more effect, the roots intended to be flowered next year should be grown on poor land. The buds will also be more perfectly formed in well-ripened roots; the crown of the root will always be more perfect in a small well-ripened, than in a large soft root. It is a mistake to suppose that the buds left on the cutting have any effect on the root; these buds are always elongated into the stem, and the root must form new buds for itself, which it will not do unless ripened. To return to the raising of seedling double flowers. The roses, pinks, carnations, and ranunculus change the stamens

only into petals, and sometimes these are only partially so in very full flowers, and seed is comparatively easy to be obtained from them; we should, as before observed, select from the fullest and best flowers. In the anemone the pistils are changed into petals, the stamens unchanged; seed of these can therefore only be obtained from flowers not perfectly full, or by impregnating flowers nearly single, with a tendency only to fulness, with the anthers of full flowers. In stocks and wall flowers, both stamens and pistil are changed into petals; seed cannot, therefore, be had from full flowers in these sorts; and the only resource we have, is to save seed from those in which a tendency to fulness has commenced, by having a petal or two more than usual. In growing stock from seed, they will be more likely to be double, if the plants are checked first by a deficiency of nourishment, whether of water or manure, and afterwards excited to luxuriance by a plentiful supply; and the greater the change, the greater the likelihood of success. Old seed, or seed dried, as in melons, gives a check; we have had instances of old neglected seed, which had been reckoned very inferior when the seeds were fresh and new, come almost every plant double, when a little had been left over and sown when old. The seed for raising double flowers of any sort can hardly be too old, if it will grow at all; and the weak plants, first stunted and then luxuriated, will be found most successful: the seed should be sown on heat, and the weak plants most cared for. After flowers have once been produced double or full, the habit of coming double will be retained, if kept so by rich cultivation. When any variety has begun to sport, the plants should be raised off those individuals which have not yet sported, as the sporting habit might become fixed; and this should be carefully guarded against by propagating from those roots that show the fullest flowers. The double China asters, matricaria, feverfew, daisies, &c., come double in the same way as dahlias; one variety of feverfew has the inner florets to come

tubular, another flosculose. Some composite flowers, as *stenactis*, *erigeron*, &c., come partially double; some, as *Antennaria margaritacea*, have a many-rowed coloured calyx that looks like double. The double *antirrhinum* is similar to the stock. The thorn, *campanula*, *helianthemum*, and most other double flowers are similar to the rose.



## CULTIVATION OF MUSHROOMS.

BY W. PRESTOE.

**DESCRIPTION.**—*Agaricus Campestris*. (The Common Mushroom.)—From one to twelve inches broad; at first appearance, smooth and globular; in the second stage, the hat is convex; afterwards, almost flat. In some the crown is of a dirty cream colour, in others ivory white. Gills of a lively pink or flesh colour, when young, changing to chocolate or blackish brown.

**TO CULTIVATE MUSHROOMS IN THE GARDEN.**—About the middle of March, or any of the spring or summer months, take a quantity of fresh stable manure, lay it in some dry place, turn it over several times and keep it dry; when well dried, dig a trench (as for celery) about a foot deep, any length or breadth you please, fill it up with the prepared dung and tread it in as firm as you possibly can, then plant cakes of my improved spawn, about three inches deep and a foot distance from each other, lay on three inches of rich loamy mould, cover the whole bed or trench with boards, fastened together in the form of the roof of a house.

**FOR THE SHED (at any season of the year).**—Make the bed with prepared dung a foot thick all over the floor, plant spawn and cover with mould as previously directed, and lay boards on the bed, to walk on.

**FOR THE CELLAR (in the winter months).**—Fill boxes or hampers with prepared dung till within three

inches of the top, plant spawn and cover with mould as above. In either place never suffer the bed or dung to get wet, or give any water till it has laid a month from the time of planting the spawn, then give a gentle watering, with water heated to bloodheat; keep the atmosphere anywhere between fifty and seventy degrees of Fahrenheit.

As soon as the young mushrooms begin to appear lay over the surface of the bed a slight covering of clean straw; if the weather is hot and dry give frequent, but moderate watering; always endeavour to keep up a moist atmosphere, but be careful not to sodden the bed.

If you wish to grow mushrooms in the field, plant large cakes of my improved spawn when you sow barley; this might be done in the furrows, after the plough, or with a setting stick. If the season is favourable, abundance of mushrooms will spring up in the autumn.

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### PROPAGATION.

IN propagation by eyes, some gardeners and florists are in the habit of striking their pink cuttings, or pipings as they are called, by reducing the cutting to the topmost joint, and cutting away all the leaves close above the central bud; they are afterwards planted in sand, on the top of a rich compost, and covered with a handglass. Any similar plant may be struck in the same way; it is like striking vines by the eyes, and is most apt to succeed in sunny weather, as it depends on excitement; and though it has not leaves to nourish it, as a large cutting has, yet it strikes root sooner, and in dry sunny weather is not so apt to fail as cuttings, which suit dull cloudy weather best.

On propagation by leaves, there is much that is curious, though little to be depended on in practice; that by scales in the bulb succeeds best with round thick fleshy scales, such as the bulbs of *Lilium lancifolium*; those that are thinner and drier do not succeed so well. Care must be taken, in the act of separating the scale, to preserve as much as possible of the collet or nucleus at the junction with the bulb; the scales are similar to leaves, and these to branches; and in taking off cuttings, when the small shoots can be parted from the stem, with the base or collar uninjured, they always succeed best. The scales are apt to be hurt by moisture, if in excess; they should be surrounded with sand, and the compost light and free, and the pots well drained; they should be stimulated by bottom heat, in a half-spent hotbed, the lights of the frame kept close, unless the weather is very damp, when less water and a little more air will be required.

In propagation by cuttings, the treatment depends greatly on the manner in which they are formed, and the state of the weather: if it be dull and cloudy, they will succeed best with their leaves on, and will require more air; if dry and sunny, they must be kept shut up from the air, and more divested of leaves: a cutting with few leaves, and these cut, is similar to an eye, and requires excitement or stimulus, that with leaves will perish if much excited. As the state of the weather is uncertain, bellglasses are useful in preventing too much evaporation; if the frame or handglass can be kept very close, there is less need for them. A great deal of the success of cuttings depends upon their being well pressed by the medium in which they are inserted; they can be best squeezed to the sides of the pot, and are found to succeed best when pressed against it; clear silver sand being the medium which consolidates most readily after watering, and presses most closely to the sides and ends of the cutting, allowing the water to pass freely, is therefore the

best. When the weather is cool and damp, there is not much need for shading; light is beneficial, if the sun is not hot. The cuttings suffer most from evaporation by heat, when newly made, and must be shaded if the sun is strong; but, if kept close, the evaporation is not so much, and there is less need: the more heat they can stand, without risk of perishing, the sooner they will root; and when cuttings have been hardened by standing for some time, and appear difficult to strike, and not apt to perish by evaporation, they should be moved into a greater heat, which will cause them to strike sooner. As to the time of making cuttings; when the young branch is in the act of extending by growth, the living principle is more active, the swelling of cellular matter that precedes roots is sooner formed; and often a plant will be found to strike from a young shoot, with its base or collar wholly separated from the stem, when a ripened branch will not succeed: they are more apt to die, and die more quickly (short little shoots, not far sprung, are least apt to die), but the living principle is more active, and, if kept close, evaporation is not so great, and some plants will strike in this way that will not by cuttings of the ripened wood. It is of great consequence with all cuttings, where the young branches are short, and will admit of it, to preserve the base or collar of the shoot; there is a nucleus of buds and fibres formed in the swelling at that place, from which roots are more easily produced, though they will do so at times from the fibres protruding between the joints. In cuttings intended to stand through the winter, they are better to be taken off a little before ripening, in order to allow the wound made by the cut to be healed, or skinned over before the growth is stopped; if left longer, they should be taken off in spring when vitality begins to be active, and as shortly before that as possible, in order that the wounds may soon be skinned over: the wounds also will heal more readily, if the operation be performed with a sharp knife, to lacerate the skin as little as possible.—*Loudon's Magazine*.

## NEW HARDY PLANTS.

WE extract the following most interesting intelligence from a Sketch of a Visit to China, by Mr. Robert Fortune (now superintendent of the Chelsea Botanic Garden), in the journal published by the Horticultural Society. The work itself is doubtless out of the reach of many of our readers, who nevertheless are most anxious to hear of anything *new, good, or handsome*; to those who can afford it, we would recommend the work itself; and we are sure that all who love gardens will read the "Sketch" with the same pleasurable feelings that we did.

Who is not fond of the rose? Mr. Fortune here informs us that he has discovered and introduced two most attractive novelties; but we give his own words:—

"The gardens of the Mandarins, although small, were extremely gay, particularly during the early months of the year; and what was of more importance to me, contained a number of new plants of great beauty and interest. On entering one of the gardens, on a fine morning in May, I was struck with a mass of yellow flowers which completely covered a distant part of the wall; the colour was not a common yellow, but had something of buff in it, which gave the flowers a striking and uncommon appearance. I immediately ran up to the place, and to my surprise and delight, found I had discovered a most beautiful *new yellow climbing rose*. I have no doubt, from what I afterwards learned, that this rose is from the more northern districts of the Chinese empire, and will prove perfectly hardy in Europe.

"Another rose, which the Chinese call the *Five-coloured*, was found in one of these gardens, at this time; it belongs to the section commonly called China roses in this country, but sports in a very beautiful and strange manner. Sometimes it produces self-coloured blooms, being either red or French white, and frequently having flowers of both on one plant at the same time; while at other times the flowers are striped with the colours already mentioned. This will also be as hardy as our common China rose."

Mr. Fortune further states that he discovered a white variety of the beautiful *Glycine Sinensis*, which, if equally hardy with the blue one already introduced, will make a valuable addition to our ligneous climbers.



## CULTURE OF THE VERBENA.

BY GEORGE SMITH, HORNSEY-ROAD.

THIS splendid flower adorns the flower garden seven months in the year, and is worthy of more attention than is generally given to it. The first object should be to procure healthy plants, and to select the luxuriant growing kinds from those of neater appearance, as those of rambling habits are apt to smother, if not to destroy, those of weaker growth.

*January.*—In choosing the beds or borders, if possible, let them be shaded from the mid-day sun, dig them eighteen inches deep, with six inches of decomposed manure, and, if the soil is heavy, also apply three inches of lime rubbish or road drift, but not from granite, so prevalent about the metropolis. Plants of robust growth will only require half the above quantity of manure.

*March.*—If the weather be dry, let the beds or borders be again dug twelve inches deep, in order to get the manure well mixed with the soil.

*May.*—The third week in this month will be a good time for planting; those of strong growth to be planted twenty-four inches apart, and those of more delicate growth eighteen, which I have pointed out in my list. If the soil is coarse, place a little leaf mould or rotten manure round the ball of each plant, when planting, to give them a start. Let each plant be pegged down with a neat peg, to prevent the wind from continually twisting it, this being an important point which is generally neglected; and water, should the weather be hot, twice a week.

*July.*—By this time, this chaste and elegant flower will be in full bloom, varying from purple to blue, and from white to scarlet, &c. As variety is consistent with nature, a bed of verbenas will be found to be a striking object of beauty.

Should the weather be hot, water three times a week with pond water, if procurable. When flowers are required for exhibition, great care should be taken

in shading. The best method I find is to get three small upright sticks, place them triangular, with a cut in the top to receive a small glass, which may be obtained at Mr. Cogan's, Leicester-square, at one shilling per pound. Care must be taken not to place the same lower than the depth of the bloom, or it will weaken it; when the sun is hot, place a leaf of any kind over the glass, but not to hang below, or it will prevent a free circulation of air. It will be necessary, after the blooming season, to protect from the frost, giving air on all occasions when the weather will permit; fumigate for the green fly, dredge sulphur for the mildew, and pick off all the dead leaves.

RAISING SEEDLINGS.—Sow the second week in February, in pans, placing them in from seventy to seventy-five degrees of moist heat, and in about three weeks they will make their appearance; then remove them to dry heat, to prevent them damping off. When five weeks old, pot them in sixty-sized pots, and place them in fifty degrees of heat, keeping them close and shaded for a day after. Give air freely when the weather will permit, and they will make rapid progress. Plant them out as directed, in May, and if these remarks are attended to, it will add much to our present collections, and afford increased pleasure to the raiser, who is always anxiously watching for the expansion of each promising flower.

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### PRUNING.

WE have been asked how to prune apple and pear trees, to make them productive; and having lately seen an article in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society of London*, bearing on this very desirable attainment, we are induced to give the substance of it, leaving our readers to try the experiment themselves, being, however, quite sure that it will have the desired effect. It was communicated by Mr. H. Bailey, gardener to

his Grace the Archbishop of York, at Nuneham Park.

From observations made by Mr. Bailey, he adopted the plan of going over the trees immediately after midsummer, and with the finger and thumb breaking the young shoots—(not off)—about four or five buds from the point whence they had grown or started in the spring. This checks their luxuriance, without causing the buds to start (which is often the case when the summer shoots are cut away), and tends to the formation of *fruit buds* at the base of them. Of course when the period arrives for winter pruning these fractured shoots are cut off. This plan is adapted for espalier trees, bushes, or trees trained to walls, and will be found to attain the same end as *root pruning*, with less labour. We conclude with the extract which Mr. Bailey gives from Dr. Lindley's *Theory of Horticulture*, and all holders of small gardens should study it well, as here they have the "*why and because.*" "Whatever produces excessive vigour in plants is favourable to the formation of leaf buds, and unfavourable—(mind)—to the production of flower buds. While on the other hand, such circumstances as tend to diminish luxuriance—(breaking the shoots for instance)—and to check rapid vegetation, without affecting the health of the individual, are more favourable to the production of flower buds than leaf buds."

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**STRAWBERRIES.**—The following is an outline of a very successful practice:—Secure well-rooted early runners; plant them two feet apart, in deep rich loamy soil, in an open part of the garden; constantly remove the runners, to strengthen the central crown or heart, which thus attains a large size, being fed by strong healthy leaves. This crown, in the fruiting season, throws out many flower stems, which are vigorous, and bear numerous blossoms, which set freely, and ripen off a good crop of large fruit, which, from being fully exposed to the sun and air, acquire a superior flavour.

We have been repeatedly asked how to fix the ammonia of liquid manure. As we strongly recommend a large cask to be kept near every dwelling, for holding slops of all sorts, which may be applied with immense advantage to growing crops, we may here observe, that the efficacy of this manure will be greatly increased by adding a quantity of oil of vitriol, diluted with twice its bulk of water. This may be poured gradually into the cask of urine, suds, &c.; it will effervesce, and continue to do so until the ammonia is fixed; which instead of flying off into the atmosphere, will thus be retained and applied whenever the cultivator requires its agency.

**CABBAGE SPROUTS.**—Having observed that sprouts from cabbage stalks, when they came near the soil, sent out roots, I thought that if cut off and planted in the ground, they would take root and thus become larger than if left upon the stalk, I cut several sprouts off, and slashing the bottom of their stalks across with my knife, I planted them in the ground, and in a very short while was gratified by seeing that they had evidently taken root, and were growing as well as I could possibly wish. They soon became large plants, and cabbaged in a much shorter time than seedling plants would have done. Thus it would appear that we can not only increase our stock of cabbages without having recourse to the slow process of growing them from seed, but we can perpetuate any favourite kind; and, this too, at any time of the year in which vegetation is carried on.—*Correspondent to Gardener's Chronicle.*

**ASPARAGUS.**—Some idea may be formed of the immense quantities of this excellent vegetable required for the supply of the London markets, when we learn from that excellent little work the *Gardener's Monthly Volume*, that in the parish of Mortlake alone, there are generally about eighty acres under this crop. One grower (Mr. Briggs) has sometimes

had forty acres under asparagus at one time. A great deal is grown near Deptford. Mr. Edmonds has had eighty acres entirely under this crop, a circumstance which must appear almost incredible to those who have not witnessed the loads of this article daily heaped on the green stalls of the metropolis, for the space of nearly three months.

**ROSE FORCING.**—Provins and moss roses may be forced annually with the utmost success, without giving them a season of rest. The plants are introduced into heat (a shelf near the glass in a vinery will do) in succession, and as soon as the most forward flowers have fully expanded, they are removed to a greenhouse stage to display their beauty, and to ripen their wood. About the middle or end of May, the pots are fully exposed to the open air, plunged to the rim in coal-ashes. Nothing more is required until the first week in October, when the same season's growths are to be pruned into two buds, and the plants placed in a shed for a week, to moderately dry the soil previous to re-potting them. Then the ball is turned out and the soil shaken from the roots, the strongest pruned in, but all that are fibrous retained. The plants are then re-potted in the same sized pots (nine-inch), using a mixture of two parts strong loam, two parts well decomposed cow-dung, and one part rotten leaf mould; and placed under a greenhouse stage, until required for forcing.—G. C.

**MOSS OR LICHEN ON FRUIT TREES.**—Old orchard fruit trees, especially in situations where they do not grow kindly, are very apt to get the branches and trunks covered with lichen and moss, which does them injury. This moss and lichen may be cleared off in several ways, but one of the simplest, and a very effectual one, is to well dredge the trees when they are damp with gentle rains or heavy fogs, with *dry* wood ashes. If this is persevered in for a short time, the trees will be effectually cleared.

The *Stamford Mercury* states that a plant of the *Magnolia Conspicua* is now growing in a nursery near Spilsby, Lincolnshire. This plant is of conical shape, about twenty yards in circumference at the base, and is now covered with upwards of a thousand beautiful white flowers, of the size and shape of the common tulip. When this plant was imported from China, in 1789, it was considered too tender to be planted in the shrubberies in England.

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## POETRY.

### FLOWERS.

BY THOMAS RAGG.

WHAT speak ye of in your wondrous birth,  
 Ye sparkling eyes of the teeming earth,  
 As ye open, besprent with the morning's dew,  
 And with radiant light our path bestrew?  
 Oh, ye tell of the world in its early prime  
 Ye tell of the glories of Eden-time,  
 Ye tell of the loveliness all things wore  
 Ere sin had infected the earth's heart's core.

And what is the perfume around you spread,  
 The spicy breath on the winds you shed?  
 The odour to which all your pores give vent,  
 Embalming the air by the tempest rent?  
 'Tis the incense ye send to the throne above,  
 And should teach erring man that His name is love  
 Who to you hath such beauty and fragrance given  
 As render the earth a glad path to heaven.

Gems of delight, by the Godhead sent!  
 Stars of our own green firmament!  
 Spangles that glisten on Nature's vest,  
 When in bridal garments of spring-time drest!  
 Oh what is your language but grateful praise  
 To Him who enkindles your gladdening rays?  
 You tell of his kindly and constant aid  
 Who you hath in garments of light arrayed.

And oh, ever such may your language be,  
 When sick of earth's troubles I gaze on ye!  
 Refreshing the spirit that's tired and worn,  
 Or by the rude blast of life's tempest torn,  
 Oh speak to me still of that Father's care  
 From whom ye received the gay robes ye wear,  
 And bid me confide in His kindly power  
 Whose pencil hath painted the opening flower.

## Part III.

## DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

MANY people are prejudiced against certain vegetables for no other reason than that they are not used to them, &c. For instance, we seldom hear of French beans being cooked when in a dry state; yet on the Continent they are highly esteemed, and if given a fair trial here, we see no reason why they should not become as much patronized for soup making as peas. Gourds and vegetable marrows, when properly cooked, are excellent; and as the present scarcity of potatoes will doubtless teach us not to place too much dependance on any one sort of food, we would recommend our readers to try a plant or two of the latter. They may be grown on the refuse heap of decayed vegetable matter, or on a dung bed, the same as common pumpkins. In order that they may know the best way of cooking them, when they have had the pleasure of growing them, we extract an excellent receipt from the *Liverpool Chronicle*:—

**COOKING VEGETABLE MARROW.**—Have ready a gallon saucepan, rather more than half full of boiling water. One minute before putting in the marrow, throw in a teaspoonful of salt and half a one of carbonate of soda. Cut the marrow into four parts, lengthways, without peeling it; or if it is the very large kind, divide each quarter transversely, making eight pieces. The small delicate Persian variety need only be halved lengthways. Throw the pieces quickly into the water, keeping it rapidly boiling all the time; they will take from a quarter to half an hour, according to the species and age. They are best when ten days or a fortnight old, but are excellent whatever age they are. While the marrow is boiling, make about the third of a pint of melted butter, and a round of toast; cut the crust off, and dip the toast twice into the water in which the

marrow is boiling; lay it in the dish, and pepper it slightly. When done, take up the marrow carefully with a fish-slice or large spoon, and lay it on the toast; pepper it well, and pour the melted butter over all. It should be served up as hot as possible. Prepared thus, vegetable marrow is scarcely inferior to asparagus, and forms an elegant and wholesome supper dish; as a dinner vegetable it should appear with roast mutton. Be sure never to peel them.

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## REVIEWS.



**THE GARDENER'S RECEIPT BOOK:** containing Methods for destroying all Kinds of Vermin and Insects injurious to the Garden, with Preventives and Cures for the different Diseases of Plants, &c. By Wm. Jones, Gardener to J. Lawrence, Esq. Beddington, Surrey. *London: R. Groombridge and Sons, 5, Paternoster-row.*

A NEAT and extremely useful compilation, calculated to be of great use to amateurs, whether cultivators of large or small gardens. They will here find instructions, of essential service to them in the destruction of insects, &c. inimical to vegetation. The only fault we have to find is, that there are not more of them.

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**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY VOLUME.** By G. W. Johnson. *London: R. Baldwin, Paternoster-row.*

WE have before spoken favourably of this little work, and have now vol. 4, on "The Grape Vine, its Culture, Uses, and History," before us. On looking through its pages we find, independent of the remarks of the editor and of Mr. Robert Errington (a great authority on vine culture), a mass of information collected from every available source; and of this we are quite sure, that no one who is about to grow



grapes should be without this very useful manual. There is especially a calendar, divided into the following heads:—1. Preparatory steps to the commencement of forcing. 2. Breaking or budding period. 3. Blossoming period. 4. Thinning the berry. 5. First swelling of the berry. 6. Stoning period. 7. Second swelling. 8. Ripening period. 9. Preservation of fruit on the tree. 10. Ripening the wood. 11. Rest period. 12. Border management, including renovation of bad borders, &c. which to those building small greenhouses in suburban gardens will be found of the greatest use.

Vol. 5 of the same work is devoted to "The Auricula, its Culture and History," by the editor, G. W. Johnson, and I. Slater, florist, Cheetham-hill, Manchester. To which is added "The Asparagus, its Culture and History," by the editor, assisted by Mr. Robert Errington.

Here we have in the first place a most interesting review of the early history of that beautiful alpine plant the auricula, with elaborate information as to its propagation, soil and manures, general culture, the diseases it is liable to, the insects detrimental to it &c., with lists of the most approved sorts; and as if to mingle the *utile cum dulce*, we have an excellent treatise on that most delicious vegetable the asparagus; forming together one of the most interesting volumes of this deservedly popular work.

## QUERIES.



May I ask the favour, through the *Midland Florist*, of some of your readers, or yourself, to give an article on hybridization, in an early number?

THOMAS.

I have heard it asserted that the rose will grow on the crab-stock. Will it?

J. M.

Will you favour me with a list of what you consider the best and most suitable varieties of the pansy, which can be obtained at a moderate price?

A. B.

I have raised some verbenas from seed, will they flower this season?—[Yes; if planted out in suitable soil, in the autumn.]

Do favour me with a list of hardy plants suitable for a wall, and you will confer a favour on  
A SINCERE FRIEND.

[We shall be most happy to give the information. No plant can be more beautiful than the *Glycine* or *Wistaria sinensis*, described in our first number. Trumpet Honeysuckle, though comparatively scentless, is very attractive, with its tubular scarlet flowers. *Bignonia radicans* (the Ash-leaved Trumpet Flower) we do not see half so often as we ought. The varieties of clematis, *Hendersonii* or *hybrida*, with *campanulata*, dark purple flowers. *Clematis azurea grandiflora*, a most desirable free-blooming distinct sort. The White Jasmine, though common, should have a place on every wall where fragrance is desirable. To these may be added the *Magnolias*, *grandiflora* and *conspicua*, the former a splendid evergreen, the latter deciduous, but both highly fragrant.]

How am I to apply liquid manure to plants? and what is best?  
C.

What is the best book on hardy forest trees and shrubs? Is there one with plates? Having some large plantations and shrubberies, which were planted by my predecessor, some years ago, I am anxious to ascertain the names of the trees and shrubs.  
*Shropshire.*  
R. M.

[Get *Loudon's Arboretum Britannicum*, an excellent work.]

Can you give me, in your next number, a list of some of the best and most showy geraniums? also the best mode of growing them?  
FLORA.

I want to mass some flowers, on circular beds, which are cut out on a grass plat, what will be the best?  
B.

[The different varieties of *verbena*, *salvia*, *lobelia*, *œnocheras*, *macrocarpa*, and *taraxaefolia*; *Veronica speciosa*, *antirrhinums*, *mimulus*, &c.]

Will liquid manure cause carnations and picotees to become selfs, or flush their colours? how will it be best applied to them? is it equally applicable for vegetables? and when should it be applied? An answer in your next number will oblige yours,  
A REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.

An article on the propagation and cultivation of roses, with a list of the best known varieties, would afford pleasure to myself, and doubtless be acceptable to many readers of the *Midland Florist*.  
B. S. P.

A short time ago, some foreigners were in Nottingham, with most wondrous things, some of which I bought, and amongst others, "a yellow moss rose." It has now begun to put out leaves, and I think, from its appearance, it is no moss rose at all. I begin to think *I am done*. Do you know whether there is such a thing, or where raised?

A MECHANIC WHO LOVES HIS GARDEN.

[We must candidly tell our querist *that he is done*, to all intents and purposes. Need any man hawk such a thing as a *yellow moss rose*? We saw their pictures, and noticed their rose, like a picotee, with a pink edge, called *Madeline*. It is the *Double-margined Hip*, which we have sold for years at a shilling each. Several of our acquaintance, who patronized Messrs. Garden, gave 3s. 6d. for what they might have had of any neighbouring nurseryman for 1s. We have no doubt that many of their customers will be *disagreeably surprised* at the blooming season. We are sure that there are plenty of spirited amateurs and nurserymen who would readily give a hundred pounds for the stock of a *good yellow moss rose*. An old friend of ours, not a hundred miles from Beeston, bought a *black moss rose*, some years ago, but it proved to be a common one.]

ROOT PRUNING.—I read with much pleasure an article on root pruning, in the May number of the *Midland Florist*, and trust you will take up the subject again when the time arrives for performing the operation, as it deserves the attention of all who are anxious to possess fruit trees which will yield abundant crops. In proof of the importance of root pruning, I will give an instance which came under my own observation, a few weeks ago. I was invited to see the garden of an amateur, who I was told was an experienced gardener. On entering the garden, I was struck with the sight of a large pear tree, which presented one mass of flower buds. I inquired the name of the tree, and was told it was Gansel's Bergamot, and that up to last season but one it had never bloomed or borne fruit, during the twelve years it had been planted. The owner of the garden, last season, having heard root pruning strongly recommended, was determined to try its effects upon this tree. He dug the earth from around the stem, and with a spade cut off the principal roots which went perpendicularly into the ground. The result was, that the same season the operation was performed, the tree produced from four to five pecks of fruit; and this year it will bear not less than twenty pecks. Such is the result of root pruning.

AN AMATEUR.

CANKER IN FRUIT TREES.—I have several apple trees very much infected with the canker; please inform me how I am to remove the same, and render my *fruit trees* more productive?

A GARDEN HOLDER.

I shall esteem it a great favour if you, or some of the numerous growers of that splendid tribe the geraniums, would give, in one of your numbers, the best mode of culture and management of that plant for exhibition; likewise the calceolaria; and oblige

A YOUNG BEGINNER.

Can you give a list of the best twenty-four fancy show dahlias, which may be obtained at a moderate price? And can you tell me which is the best descriptive catalogue of tulips, and the best work on their culture?

Norwich.

C.

I was in J. H. Brown's garden where there was a large bed of free bloomers and seedling polyanthus in flower, which looked so well, I determined to commence growing them; and not having seen in the *Midland Florist* a description of a good polyanthus, I should esteem it a favour if you would, as soon as convenient, state the best properties of that flower.

E. J. B.

I should be greatly obliged if you would inform me where I could purchase a plant of the Highland Mary polyanthus, and what it is selling at.

E. J. B.

Cannot polyanthus be grown to greater perfection in a cold frame, in pots, with a proper compost, than in the open border? I have two plants in bloom, which were in the open border; I potted them, and placed them in a cold frame, and find they are now one-third better in every respect than before. Perhaps some polyanthus grower will be kind enough to give a speedy answer to this query, and oblige

X. X.

I could give you the names of two or three individuals whose veracity you would not question, and whose judgment and observation you would not despise, who assert that the common white narcissus, by long and total neglect, will degenerate into the common yellow daffodil. I should wish to know your opinion as to this extraordinary effect of non-culture.

H. J. H.

Being a great admirer of early spring flowers, particularly of the hepatica, and having the single and double blue, single and double pink, and single white, I wish very much to add to these varieties. I looked for seed last summer, on those I have, but found none, nor could I procure any here. I have at present some plants under cap glasses, tilted on bricks, and promising to seed very well. I should feel much obliged, if you would kindly advise, in the next number of your very interesting publication, the best means of saving seed, and where would be the most probable place to obtain other varieties. I have read of the double white and double yellow, but they are not to be had in Dublin, or its vicinity.

Dublin.

I. G. C.

Would you have the goodness to give a descriptive list of a few of the very best picotees in cultivation, whether *new or old sorts*; and what is of still more importance, where to be obtained *TRUE*? A paper in the next number of the *Midland Florist*, on their growth, would be acceptable to many of your friends in this part. Also a few of the very best carnations, that are the least given to running. You gave two lists in your March number, of best pinks; would you please to mention which of the sorts are *rose-petalled completely*, and also good in other respects? Please to place the *very best* picotee in each class *the first*.

NORTH LANCASHIRE.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In the March number of the *Midland Florist*, the following question is put by A Poor Operative:—What would be the expense of a three light frame, and the most economical mode of heating it? I send you an account of one I constructed last year, of the following dimensions:—Width, 9 feet; length, 6 feet; height of back, from the ground, 3 feet 6 in.; height of front, from the ground, 1 foot six inches; each light is 3 feet wide and 6 feet long. The total cost was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Brick-work, including the carting of bricks . . . .	1	14	0
Wood-work . . . . .	1	10	0
Glass, 50 feet, at 2d. per foot, 6 inches by four ..	0	8	8
Putty . . . . .	0	1	0
	<hr/>		
	3	13	8

The glass I put in myself, which is a great saving, and easily done.

THETA.

TO A LANCASHIRE FLORIST.—I should be glad to hear that the example set by the florists of Leeds and Derby, is likely to be followed by the florists of Lancashire, and especially by those residing in the neighbourhood of Manchester. It is of the utmost importance that this intention should be made known as early as possible, for the double purpose of anticipating the wishes of some other society and holding up Manchester as the beacon for future ambition and future fame.

FLORA.

If C. T. P. has his cold air drains properly constructed, with the aperture for the admittance of cold air to the plate over the furnace *highest*, he will find this inconvenience obviated.

Lincoln.

R. S.

**BOOKS.**—*Loudon's Hortus Brittanicus* will be the best; here the derivation of all names are given, with their proper accents, &c. *Lindley's Theory of Horticulture*, and *School Botany* are excellent and useful books, and by all means should be obtained. *Macintosh's Practical Gardener*, and *Johnson's Monthly Volume* are also good for the purpose described; and we intend to embody in our own little work every thing bearing on those subjects.

**AMATEUR, Beeston.**—Pumpkins delight in abundance of rich and rotten compost; watering with liquid manure, stopping the shoots, and thinning the fruit, will, in favourable situations and seasons, ensure large fruit. **AN OLD PUMPKIN.**

**RATS AND MICE.**—I quite agree with your correspondent F. F. that these destructive vermin consume one-twentieth part of the produce of the land. During a long life, the greater part of which I have cultivated flowers, they have occasioned me serious loss. I once had the whole of a crop of three year old seedling tulips taken, after they had been planted (to me an irreparable loss), independent of serious attacks on general stock. They have also a great fancy for polyanthuses. I understand the phosphoric poison is an effectual remedy for them. **ANTI-RAT.**

**POMONA.**—Did your correspondent notice, previous to grafting his apple trees, whether there had been a continuance of cold south-easterly winds as the sap was rising? This might occasion the anomaly he alludes to. **W. B.**

**THE PRAIRIE ROSES** are hardy and luxuriant growers. The varieties already introduced do not appear to be very free to open in dull or cold weather. They have been cultivated in the midland counties. **HENRY FINCHMAN.**

**BLESSED THISTLE.**—In answer to your correspondent J. D. T. I beg leave to say, that its medicinal qualities are said by Deering to be, a good stomachic, and also that it serves for a gentle emetic. It is not usually found in a wild state in the midland counties, though occasionally cultivated by those who grow herbs for sale.

Your correspondent in the *Midland Florist*, J. D. T., Cheltenham, will find his inquiries answered by referring to the *English Physician Enlarged*, page 73, by Nicholas Culpepper, Gent. &c. published 1703. **W. P.**

**INDIAN SHOT.**—I have often bloomed the Indian shot in my greenhouse, which is rather a warm one, and I keep it pretty dry. The seed should be sown when ripe, and raised in gentle heat. I apprehend Marianne will find no difficulty in getting them to vegetate. **AMATEUR.**

**OXONIENSIS.**—Has not your correspondent, by causing his myrtle to grow freely, caused it to assume a more healthy vegetation? If I understand the variegation of plants aright, it arises more or less from an unhealthy state. I have had various variegated trees, which, as they have become large and luxuriant, have turned green. HENRY SIMS.

**SHOW PANSIES FOR A BEGINNER.**—Cook's Black Bess, Lawsonii, Hooper's Wellington, Democrat, Brown's Excellent, Cyclops, Alice, Rival Yellow, Curion, Cook's Delight, Tom Pinch, Turner's Dido.

*Lancashire.*

A. Z.

**SHOW PANSIES.**—Milton, Alba Perfecta, Agnes, Prince of Orange, Archimedes, Cabinet Minister, Sobieski, Sovereign, Red Rover, Primrose Superb, Blue Fringe, and Sultan.

*Nottingham.*

W. W.

**PANSIES.**—I see an amateur wishes for a list of that favourite little flower the pansy. I submit one for his inspection. They are a few of the best sorts cultivated in this neighbourhood, for shape, colour, substance and smoothness of the edge of the petal, &c.:—Thompson's Pizarro and Eclipse, Gibson's Warrior, King's Exquisite, Backhouse's Dr. Wolff, Cook's White Sergeant, Rob Roy, Coundon's President, Fryer's Royal Standard, May's Duke of York, Ferguson's Rolla, Catherine, Major's Bridegroom, Major's Purity, Good's Epping Forest, Brown's Curion, Earl's William Tell, Miss Batty, Maid of the Mill, Hon. Mrs. Harcourt, Beauty of Blackburn, Robin Hood, and Field Marshall.

*Sunderland.*

THOMAS COUNDON.

**CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.**—*Scarlet Bizarres.*—Easom's Admiral Curzon, Harvey's Conqueror.

*Crimson Bizarres.*—Marris's Thomas Hood, Wallis's Young Earl Grey.

*Scarlet Flake.*—Wilmer's Hero of Middlesex.

*Purple Flakes.*—Pollard's First-rate, Wilmer's Mayo (this requires thinning to one bud).

*Rose Flakes.*—Pickering's Mrs. Pickering, Maltby's Mrs. Hughes.

*Purple Picotees.*—Matthews's Enchantress, Marris's Lady Sale.

*Red Picotees.*—Barringer's Unique, Mrs. Bevan (Burroughs).

*Rose Picotees.*—Gatliff's Proconsul, Hudson's Adeline.

This, for the present, will reply to several subscribers. We will give the other descriptions as soon as the blooming season is over.

**ABUTILION STRIATUM.**—S.—We should suppose, from the appearance of the foliage, that the plant is seriously affected with *red spider*. Put it into a moist atmosphere, springing it well occasionally.

**SUMMER CLIMBING PLANTS.**—**Mrs. B.**—We know of nothing better adapted for covering her trellises and wire-work than the following:—*Rhodochiton volubile*, dark reddish purple; *Lothospermum erubescens*, rosy pink; *Maurandia Barclayana*, beautiful purple; *Eccremocarpus scaber*, beautiful orange; *Tropæolum peregrinum*, bright yellow. They are all luxuriant growers, and bloom profusely.

**HAWTHORNS.**—**M. S.**—All the hawthorns are ornamental, some peculiarly so. They will grow, if budded or grafted on the mountain ash, but the common thorn is the best stock.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JUNE.



### FLOWER GARDEN.

Where putting out *ten week stocks*, *asters*, *zinnias*, &c. &c., has been delayed, let no time be lost; and should the weather prove hot and dry, they must be watered, shaded, &c.,

*Scabiouses*, May's *Superb Sweet William*, the *Double Canterbury Bell*, *Lupins*, and seedlings of every description, may be planted, always preferring a suitable moist day for the purpose.

Many of the *Tropæolums* (nasturtians) may be planted. These make a beautiful show all the summer months, either attached to small stakes, or covering trellises. The most easily procurable, and within the means of most people, are

*Tropæolum peregrinum*, better known as "*The Canary Flower*."

A most beautiful and interesting plant, of rapid growth, covering a great extent during a season. It is a native of New Grenada, and was introduced about 1810.

*Tropæolum majus atrosanguinea*.—A strong growing sort, with large dark crimson flowers; much coarser than the preceding, but showy.

*Tropæolum pentaphyllum* (Five-leaved Nasturtian).—This does not rise so high as either of the other two, but is a very distinct variety, blooming profusely in the open border, during the summer months.

To these may be added, the double flowering varieties, usually seen in greenhouses, but they should have a place on all well-appointed flower borders, where they will contribute their share in the general adornment.

In addition to these, *scarlet geraniums* make a fine display; those of dwarf and compact habit are, of course, most suited for small gardens. Frogmore and General Tom Thumb will be found suitable.



*Sabias* should not be forgotten; and as they are most likely planted out, attention must be paid to pegging down the shoots, and stopping them, by pinching off the ends.

*Silene Schafta*, *Calceolaria florabunda*, *Lobelia erinus compacta* (*alba* and *grandiflora*), *Phlox Drummondii*, *Veronica speciosa*, are all good things for putting out in the borders, and should not be lost sight of.

*Carnations* and *Picotees*.—These will now require a good deal of attention. Take care that the bandages to the stems are not too tight, the pots free from weeds, and the surface kept in a fine friable state. Layers which throw up a stem, without any increase (where this is an object) should be immediately cut over, if they are worth preserving, in order that they may put out shoots from the bottom. Lay traps for earwigs. Pieces of bean-stalks, placed on the pots, will be found efficacious; they retreat into these in the evening, and from thence they may be blown into a basin of water every morning. We hope to be able, during the blooming season, to give our readers several descriptive lists of these universal favourites. In the interim, we think that three of the best we saw last season were Matthews's Enchantress, P.P. Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan, R.P., and Wilmer's Princess Royal, Ro.P.

*Pinks*, when strong, put up many flowering stems; where the flowers are intended for exhibition, and size is an object, these should be reduced; if cut off rather close, it will ensure the production of many pipings, and will give increased strength to the stem or stems which remain. As the *pink* exhibitions take place in the midland counties generally in the latter part of June, the necessary attention must be paid to them whilst blooming. We do not like matting for tying the buds, cotton drawn across a piece of bees' wax, will be found better; the buds should be wound round with this twice or thrice, and, by twisting the ends between the finger and thumb, it will be effectually secured, whilst they may be easily untwisted when it is found necessary to ease the buds, as they swell. The buds must be shaded from excessive wet, and occasional waterings, with Brain's or Potter's liquid guano, will be found highly beneficial.

*Pansies* have many admirers, and a bed well grown, under a light calico awning, is really a pretty and interesting object. In order to insure success, a protection of this sort is absolutely necessary. They will want an abundant supply of water at this season, for, if neglected, and they contract mildew, the welfare of the whole stock is in jeopardy. Cuttings of desirable varieties may be taken, and only a few seed pods on each plant allowed to ripen.

*Dahlias*.—Few plants require more attention than these; how often do we see them tied up to a stake, like a bundle of sticks, and yet the owners are surprised they do not get fine flowers; we shall extract, next month, from Mr. Turner's valuable essay on the *dahlia*, what is necessary to be done. In

the meantime, tie carefully to a *stout stake*, and, as the laterals advance, they must be attached to other smaller stakes, at a short distance from the main one.

*Tulips*.—From the lateness of the season, we should think that these will be in perfection, when this number is issued. The enthusiasm and admiration of the cultivator will then be at *high pressure*; and we trust, with the *Midland Florist* in their hands, hundreds of florists will examine their flowers, and test the truth of Mr. Hardy's most excellent article "on perfection of form in the tulip," and judge for themselves, how far his standard is preferable to all others. The important operation of hybridization must not be forgotten. We were asked the other day how it was done, and as perhaps many others of our readers would like to know, we will here state how we have obtained fertilized seed. Having selected a *tulip*, (a breeder, or unbroken flower, we should prefer, with the best properties, as to shape of cup, purity of the base, or lower part of the leaves or petals, substance or thickness, smoothness of margin, &c.) as soon as it is possible to see the inside, extract the six anthers, or small dark receptacles on the tops of the stamens. Having done this, you have effectually prevented the flower from producing seed, unless it is supplied from some other flower. You then select some variety of the same class (that is to say, the same ground colour, for it would be very improper to cross a bizarre with a hybloemen or rose, as the progeny would most likely be intermediate, neither white nor yellow, like many of the tricolors), and, on a fine sunny day, when the flower from which you have extracted the anthers is expanded, and when the upper part of the stigma, or the seed vessel, in the centre of the flower, appears moist, obtain the farina contained in the anthers of the flower you have selected, on the point of a very fine camel-hair brush (it cannot well be too small), and apply it to the upper part of the stigma, carefully, and with a light hand. It is not absolutely necessary that this farina should be got the same day, for it has been proved that it retains its fertilizing influence for a long time, and, if kept between two pieces of glass, as surgeons carry *vaccine matter*, it may be used during the season, whenever the florist finds it necessary. We do not know that it is at all important that the bloom should be covered, for if the operation is successful, and fertilization has taken place, no other farina will affect the seed. Towards the middle, and in some cases the latter end of the month, the foliage will have begun to wither; they must then be carefully taken up, just removing the soil from the fibres, and shortening the foliage, but do not remove any offsets. Put them into their boxes, and place them in a dry airy place for the present.

*Ranunculuses*.—These must be examined for a long green caterpillar, which may be found lengthways on the stem, immediately below the flower bud; and the cuckoo-spit (*cicada spumaria*) should be destroyed whenever seen. In this part of

the country our best growers put awnings over their beds; and from the great quantity of improved sorts of late years raised from seed, they form a magnificent display. They must be kept free from weeds; and occasional waterings, *between the rows*, will be found beneficial.

*Auriculas* and *Polyanthuses*.—Our readers may refer for summer management to the two excellent articles in previous numbers.

All bulbs whose foliage is decayed, it will be expedient to take up, such as *jonquils*, *crocuses*, &c., though thousands are left in the ground from year to year; but when increase is desired, the former is the preferable plan.

Those who are fond of propagating, may now put in cuttings of *wallflowers*, *fuchsias*, *salvias*, *heliotropes*, &c.

The flowering stems of a few *double white rockets* should be cut off close to the ground, in order that they may put out shoots abundantly from the lower part, which may be divided later in the season.

All straggling plants should be tied carefully, *not bunched up*; and dead leaves, weeds, &c. carefully and promptly removed. The latter ought never to be allowed to get higher than an inch, or as the late Mr. Loudon used to say, *beyond the economic point*; every day they are left will increase the difficulty of their destruction, besides giving them an opportunity of seeding, and thus laying in a store of trouble for years to come.

We had almost forgot to say, that at the latter end of the month, budding *roses* may be tried; and in order that the amateur may become proficient, we must say, as better men have said before us, *read our book*.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN.

*Peas*.—This season we have put in a *pea* or two on every *potato* set; we have no great faith in the prosperity of the latter, and as *peas* upheld by the potatoe haulm will produce largely and abundantly, we thought it was worth while to try the experiment. It is late for main crops, still they may be tried, and should the season be favourable, will prove valuable.

*Tomatoes*.—As they advance, these must be fastened to the wall or paling against which they grow.

*Brussels Sprouts*, *Curled Brocoli*.—Autumn sown plants appear extremely liable to run this season. Plant out a good breadth of spring sown ones; *they will be wanted*.

*Onions* and *Carrots* must be well thinned and kept clean. It is bad and false economy to let them stand too thick.

*Turnips*.—Sow *Snowball*, or *Stone*, for succession.

*Cress* and *Turnip Radishes*, for secondary crops.

*Potatoes*.—Earth up as they get high enough, and if planted sufficiently wide apart, interline with *savoys* and *winter greens* of any kind.

*Kidney Beans* must be staked. When they reach the height of seven feet they should be stopt, by pinching off the extreme point.

From the scarcity of corn and dearth of leguminous seeds, large importations of *haricot beans* still take place; we again hope that these may have a fair trial amongst our fellow countrymen.

As the various sorts of *herbs* flower, they should be cut, and hung in an open shed or other dry airy place.

Sow a good breadth of *cauliflower*, for the autumn; also a succession of *herbs*, such as *parsley*, *purslain*, &c.

*Celery* should be planted out in trenches, with an abundant supply of well decayed manure beneath the plants.

To *Cucumbers* in frames, where the heat is decreasing, supply fresh linings; and peg down the shoots of both them and *vegetable marrows*.

### FRUIT TREES AND SHRUBS.

Instead of cutting away the awkward fore right shoots, break them over, as recommended in the present number; at all events it will be giving the system a fair trial.

*Apricots* appear to have ten times too much fruit on them; they should be regularly and carefully thinned. Shoots that will lie well to the wall must be nailed in.

Keep down the American bug, or blight, by constant attention, rubbing the crevices with a hard brush. A coating of clay, worked up with soft soap, is described as a good remedy.

Grafts will now require looking to. When the shoots get the length of six or eight inches, on a wet day, or after rain, remove the clay, but do not untie; unless the graft is suffering much, this may be deferred until a rather later period; and when it is necessary to slacken the bast mat, it should be carefully loosened and re-tied.

*Evergreens* may be layered; the majority require tonguing, but the *laurestinus* roots very well without.

The *dog rose stocks*, for budding, should have all the shoots rubbed off as they appear, except two well placed ones at the upper part.

*Gooseberries*.—Examine the trees, particularly those for show, and hand-pick and kill the caterpillars which prey on the leaves.

As *strawberries* emit runners, peg them down, if increase is required.

Many *vines* are grown by artizans, in the neighbourhood of large towns. They will find the Black Hamburg one of the safest croppers. As the fruit appears, the shoot must be nipped one joint above the bunch, great care being taken that the leaves are uninjured, especially the one which accompanies the bunch.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

## ROYAL SOUTH LONDON FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first show of this society took place on Wednesday, April 21st, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, when the following prizes were awarded:—

## TO AMATEURS.

**AURICULAS.**—(Best pair.) 1st prize (small silver Victoria medal), to W. S. Ginger, Esq. Maida-hill, for Hogg's Waterloo and Taylor's Glory; 2nd (small silver Linnæan medal), Wm. Sandilands, Esq. South Lambeth, for Dickson's Duke of Wellington and Stretche's Emperor Alexander; 3rd (small silver Adelaide medal), J. C. Chapman, Esq. Brixton-road, for Page's Champion and Hogg's Waterloo.—(Best six.) 1st prize (large silver Adelaide medal), W. Sandilands, Esq., South Lambeth, for Dickson's Duke of Wellington, Page's Duchess of Oldenburgh, Taylor's Glory, Stretche's Emperor Alexander, Hogg's Waterloo, Dickson's Apollo; 2nd (small silver Victoria medal), J. C. Chapman, Esq. Brixton-road, for Dickson's Apollo, Gable's Duke of Wellington, Taylor's Glory, Netherwood's Othello, Garton's Champion, Chapman's Brixton Hope.

**HEARTSEASE.**—(Best eighteen.) 1st prize (small silver Victoria medal), J. Edwards, Esq. West Smithfield, for Lady Sale, Turner's Optimus, Hooper's Mary Jane, Brown's Curion, Turner's Caractacus, Conquering Hero, Hunt's Wellington, Providence, Thompson's Isabella, Thompson's Pizarro, Major's Duke of York, Rebecca, Madonna, Thompson's Arethusa, Brown's Field Marshal, Hunt's Tom Pinch, King's Purple Perfection, Hall's Rainbow; 2nd (small silver Linnæan medal), Mr. G. Parsons, Ponder's-end, for Hunt's Wellington, Countess of Camperdown, Thompson's Fair Maid, Perseus, King of Saxony, Excellent, Bryant's Standard, Juno, Annette, Purple Perfection, Duchess of Rutland, Thompson's Cyrus, Duke of Wellington, Vulcan, Conquering Hero, Optimus, Dido, Seedling; 3rd (small silver Adelaide medal), L. Over, Esq. Streatham, for Doctor Wolff, Rebecca, Arethusa, Excellent, Duchess of Rutland, Optimus, Isabella, Regulator, Constellation, Rainbow, President, Malibran, Pizarro, Coronation, Superb, Madonna, Exquisite, Perfection, Lady Sale.

## AURICULA MEETING,

Held April 26th, at the house of Mr. James Harrison, Masons' Arms, Middleton, Lancashire.

**First Class.—Green-edged.**—1st, Booth's Freedom, Robert Lancashire; 2nd, Fair Flora, Colonel Lee; 3rd, Morris's Green Ibers, John Schofield; 4th, Prince of Wales, David Jackson; 5th, Imperator, William Kent; 6th, Highland Laddie, Wm. Eastham; 7th, Lady Ann Wilbraham, John Buckley; 8th, Page's Champion, J. Schofield.

**Second Class.—Grey-edged.**—1st, Sykes's Complete, J. Schofield; 2nd, Privateer, Robert Lancashire; 3rd, Ringleader, Wm. Eastham; 4th, Mary Ann, Wm. Kent; 5th, Conqueror of Europe, Edmund Fallows; 6th, Queen Victoria, John Buckley; 7th, Lancashire Hero, David Jackson; 8th, Waterloo, David Jackson.

**Third Class.—White-edged.**—1st, Bright Venus, William Kent; 2nd, Favourite, John Buckley; 3rd, Regular, John Buckley; 4th, Chancellor, William Kent; 5th, Seedling, J. Buckley; 6th, Countess of Wilton, John Schofield; 7th, True Briton, Charles Ball, Esq.; 8th, Lily of the Valley, Daniel Moors.

*Fourth Class.—Selfs.*—1st, Othello, Charles Ball, Esq.; 2nd, True Blue, William Kent; 3rd, Blue Bonnet, John Buckley; 4th, Lord Primate, Colonel Lee; 5th, Apollo, Robert Lancashire; 6th, Bradshaw's Tidy, Charles Ball, Esq.; 7th, Flora's Flag, Daniel Moors; 8th, Lord Lee, Samuel Brierley.

*Fifth Class.—Polyanthuses.*—1st, Exile, Colonel Lee; 2nd, Lord Lincoln, Robert Lancashire; 3rd, Lord John Russell, Robert Lancashire; 4th, Alexander, Charles Ball, Esq.; 5th, Beauty of England, Robert Lancashire; 6th, Golden Hero, James Heap; 7th, Princess Royal, Colonel Lee; 8th, Bang Europe, Charles Ball, Esq.; 9th, Free Bloomer, Robert Lancashire; 10th, Prince Regent, Robt. Lancashire; 11th, George IV., James Heap; 12th, Duchess of Kent, William Kent.

*Alpine.*—Seedling, Charles Ball, Esq.

The first Meeting for the next season will take place on the first Monday in January, 1848; the making-up meeting on Midlent Monday; and the day of showing on the first Monday after April 20th.

### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDEN, CHISWICK.

The first exhibition for the season took place on Saturday, May 8th. The day was unpropitious in the extreme. We have not space to record the names of all the excellent plants shown on this occasion, but shall notice a few of those most likely to interest our readers. The first prize for calceolarias was given to Mr. Gaines, for the following well-grown plants, which were in excellent condition:—Kinghorn's Masterpiece, Julia, Henrietta, and Queen of May; Gaines's Madonna and Queen of Sheba. Mr. Cock, of Chiswick, gained the first geranium prize, with the following first-rate varieties:—Hector, Milo, Sultana, Sylvia, Emperor, Pearl, Zanzummim, Negress, Isabella, Rosy Circle, Arabella, and Orion. Mr. Beck, of Isleworth, exhibited two seedling geraniums, for which the silver Knightian medal was awarded:—

*Cruluta.*—A rich looking flower, top petals of deep orange crimson, with a large blotch, the lower petals rather lighter, the centre white.

*Cavalier.*—Of good habit, and apparently blooms most abundantly, the petals are stout and of fine form, the uppermost a fine crimson scarlet, with a dark blotch, the lower a beautiful rosy salmon.

A certificate was awarded to Mr. Miller, for the Queen of Kent.

Of new plants, *Campanula nobilis* was exhibited by Mr. Williams, gardener to C. B. Warner, Esq. This is a fine herbaceous plant, lately introduced by the society from China, and is worth inquiring about.

### THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK,

Wednesday, May 12.

**PANSIES.**—The first prize was awarded to Mr. Turner, of Chalvey, for Hooper's Attraction, Bohemian Girl, Nonsuch, Mary Jane, Duke of Wellington, Great Britain, Wonderful, Lady Sale, Optimus, Potentate, Achilles, Othello, Bell's Climax, Pizarro, Shakespeare, Hall's Rainbow, Duchess of Rutland, Dr. Wolff, Chater's Model of Perfection, Brown's Arethusa, White Sergeant, King's Exquisite, Gossett's Lord Hardinge, Youell's Model of Perfection. The second prize was gained by Mr. Cutter, of Slough, for Baroness Wenman, Perseus, Desirable, Dr. Wolff, Model of Perfection, Hunt's Wellington, Optimus, Duchess of Rutland, Regulator, Jehu, Exquisite, Madonna, Pizarro, Purple Perfection, Curion, Magraith, Premier, Excellent, Success, Arethusa, Orion, White Sergeant, Discount, and Star. Our readers will be able to ascertain by the above varieties

what are considered the best pansies in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. The two gentlemen above-named are celebrated for their fine collections of this interesting flower.

**SEEDLING FLOWERS.**—A certificate was awarded to a calceolaria, named Jenny Lind; and a similar prize was awarded to Messrs. Henderson and Son, for a cineraria, called Fair Rosamond.

We quote also the names of a collection of alpine plants, exhibited by Mr. Wood, of Norwood. Probably some of our readers may wish to know what plants are suitable for rockwork; they will find these adapted for that purpose:—*Veronica repens*, *Houstonia cœrulea*, *Arenaria valearica*, *Gnaphaleum disicum*, *Saxifraga tridentata*, *Erinus alpinus*, *Veronica prostrata*, *Iberis tenoreana*, *Alyssum alpinum*, *Epimedium grandiflorum*, *Cheiranthus ochroleucus*, and *Sedum ternatum*.

### MORPETH FLORAL SOCIETY.

The members of this society held their first meeting on the 8th of May, at Mr. Turner's, Turk's Head Inn, Morpeth, for the show of auriculas, polyanthuses, and hyacinths. The judges awarded the prizes as follows:—

**HYACINTHS.**—Mr. W. Butler 1st and 2d, with Nimrod and Grand Vainqueur.

**DOUBLE HYACINTHS.**—Mr. Hogg, gardener to the Rev. F. R. Grey, 1st, with Groot Voorst; Mr. Buttery 2d, with Waterloo.

**AURICULAS.**—Mr. Lewins 1st and 4th, with Campbell's Robert Burns and Cockup's Eclipse; Mr. Gallon, of Felton, 2d, with Ring-leader; Mr. Sanderson, Whalton, 3d, with Page's Champion.

**POLYANTHUSES.**—Mr. Boyd 1st, with Buck's George the Fourth; Mr. Riddle 2d, with Mitford Rival; Mr. Gallon 3d, with Nicholson's King; Mr. Scott, Whalton, 4th, with Lord John Russell.

**SEEDLINGS—AURICULA.**—Mr. Lewins 1st, with Prince Albert (white edge).—**POLYANTHUS.**—Mr. Riddle, Mitford, with Capt. Boyd.

### THE CATTLE MARKET FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

Held their first show, for this year, at the house of Mr. James Clarke, the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Waterloo-street, Newcastle, on the 10th of May, when the judges, Messrs. J. Berry, R. Brown, and R. Moat, junior, after much deliberation, gave their decision as follows:—

**HYACINTHS.**—(3 dissimilar blooms.) Mr. Lishman 1st; and Mr. F. Shield 2d and 3d.

**PANSIES.**—(Stand of 24 dissimilar blooms.) Mr. Isaac Scott 1st; Mr. J. Harland 2d.—Ditto.—(Stand of 12 dissimilar blooms.) Mr. Isaac Scott 1st and 4th; and Mr. J. Harland 2d and 3d.

**POLYANTHUSES.**—Mr. R. Clark 1st, with Pearson's Alexander; Mr. Rawland 2d and 3d, with Thompson's Seedling, and Barkas's Bonny Bess; Mr. J. Wilson 4th, with Buck's George IV.; and Mr. J. Harland, Lumley Castle, 5th.

**AURICULAS (Sels.)**—Mr. Isaac Scott 1st and 3d, with Eltringham's Seedling, and Negro Boy; Mr. J. Harland 2d, with Blue Bonnet; and Mr. Pearson 4th and 5th, with Full Moon, and another.—Ditto (variegated.)—Mr. Carr 1st and 3d, with Lancashire Hero, and Bone's Perfection; Mr. Isaac Scott 2d and 5th, with Grimes' Privateer, and Page's Duchess of Oldenburgh; Mr. Pearson 4th, with Champion of England.

**RHUBARB.**—Mr. I'Anson 1st; Mr. Best 2d, 4th, and 5th; and Mr. Riddell, 3d.

**LETTUCE.**—Mr. Riddell 1st; Mr. Moore 2d; and Mr. Tunnell, 3d.

**RADISHES.**—Mr. R. Clark, 1st and 2d.

The next meeting is fixed for the second Monday in June.

### FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS & HORTICULTURISTS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The members of the Felton union of Florists and Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of auriculas, polyanthuses, hyacinths, and vegetables, being their first show for the season, on Monday, May 10, at Mrs. Hine's, Northumberland Arms Inn, when the prizes were awarded as follow :—

**AURICULAS.**—The 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 6th prizes to Mr. T. Dawson, Acklington, for Salter's Garland, Grime's Privateer, Lancashire Hero, and Washington Universe; and the 2nd and 5th to Mr. A. Gowens, Felton, for Lord Bridport and William IV.

**POLYANTHUSES.**—The 1st prize to Mr. Wm. Harrison, Felton, Bridge End, for Buck's George IV.; the 2nd to Mr. J. Crossling, gardener, Felton Park, for Pearson's Alexander; the 3rd to Mr. John Hudson, Felton, for Burnard's Formosa; the 4th to Mr. Wm. Riddle, gardener, Mitford Castle, for Riddle's Mitford Rival; and the 5th and 6th to Mr. A. Gowens, for Nicholson's Catherine. The prize for the best seedling ditto was awarded to Mr. Crossling, but the name was not given in.

**DOUBLE HYACINTHS.**—The 1st and 3rd prizes to Mr. John Hudson, for Groot Voorst and Panorama; the 2nd, 4th, and 5th, to Mr. Wm. Harrison, for Pasquin, Groot Voorst, and Alamode; and the 6th to Mr. Dawson, for Wellington.

**SINGLE HYACINTHS.**—The 1st and 3rd to Mr. John Hudson, for Mars and Triumph Blandina; the 2nd to Mr. William Harrison, for La Valiere; the 4th to Mr. T. Dawson, for L'Amie de Cour; the 5th to James Thompson, Esq. Morpeth, for Orion Dates; and the 6th to Mr. Wm. Piddle, for Nimrod.

**AMATEURS' VEGETABLES.**—For the best 6 leeks. 1st prize to Mr. John Hudson, 2d to Mr. James Rochester, and 3rd to Mr. J. Hudson; best 18 radishes, 1st to Mr. A. Gowens, 2nd to Mr. James Rochester, 3rd to Mr. A. Gowens; best 2 heads of brocoli, Mr. John Cookson, Red Lion Inn; 2nd and 3d to Mr. Thomas Jeffrey. An extra prize was awarded to Mr. Thomas Jeffrey, for cabbages, and another to the same gentleman, for Victoria rhubarb.

Owing to the late unfavourable weather, the number of auriculas exhibited was but small, but the other parts of the exhibition were very fine indeed, and excited much admiration.

### THE OPEN TULIP SHOW HELD AT DERBY,

May 24th.

The first prize was awarded to Mr. Spencer, of Thulston, Derbyshire, for the following:—Magnum Bonum, Captain White, Lady Crewe, Triomphe Royale, Lilliard, Queen Charlotte, and Arlette Breeder.

The second prize to Mr. John Staton, for Duke of Devonshire, Captain White, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Sancta Sophia, Violet Alexander, and Seedling Breeder.

The third prize to Mr. John Gibbons, of Chellaston, for Aidecamp, Donzelli, Rose of Sharon, Triomphe Royale, Van Amburgh, and Sable Monarch.

The first prize for the best pan of Chellaston Seedlings was awarded to Mr. Thomas Gibbons; the second to Mr. John Staton.

The judges were Mr. J. F. Wood, editor of the *Midland Florist*; Mr. J. Spencer, of Adbolton; and Mr. W. Harpham, of Nottingham.

We shall give further particulars of the exhibition in our next.

A full report of the first exhibition of the Nottingham Horticultural Society, and the Snenton floral and horticultural show likewise, will be given in the next number.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## REMARKS ON TULIPS GROWN IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

A PROGRESSIVE and rapid improvement is evidently taking place in these beautiful and favourite flowers. Stained cups are not now tolerated, and blooms with discoloured stamens will soon be numbered amongst *the things which were*.

There seems to be a growing inclination to divide the class called *bizarres*, and we think with very great propriety too; those with red flame or feather having been unfairly esteemed as inferior to those of a darker shade, without reference either to their *form* or *purity*. Now as we take colour to be a mere matter of fancy, it certainly would be far better to have two classes—dark and red—these again being subdivided into feather and flame of their respective colours. Independent of which, many fine seedlings have been of late years originated, in the latter class, possessing every requisite of good show flowers in an eminent degree, and forming most interesting additions to our collections. In travelling through various parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire, during the past blooming season, there appeared to us to be but one opinion on this point—that the reds have no chance with darker flowers, at an exhibition, as at present constituted; whilst all admit their beauty and claims on the especial attention of floriculturists.

As our purpose now is to note the flowers which

more especially took our fancy, in our various visits, and particularly a few which have hitherto been in the unfashionable class of reds, we trust that our brother florists will bear with us; and if we err in judgment, they must recollect that we do not pretend to infallibility; our only aim being to raise a spirit of inquiry, whereby truth and correct conceptions may be elicited, and the welfare of florists and floriculture be promoted.

In our visit to the environs of Manchester, about the 17th of May, we found tulips extremely late, owing to the backwardness of the season; consequently a description of the novelties grown in that neighbourhood must be furnished by some of our friends, who at a subsequent period had leisure and opportunity to make the requisite observations. Our labour was not however all lost, as we experienced great gratification in inspecting the collection of our talented contributor, Mr. G. W. Hardy, of Warrington. Here the flowers were cleanly and beautifully grown; and amongst the number of superior varieties that arrested our attention, we may enumerate a fine strain of Lancashire Hero (feathered bybloemen), some half-dozen roots, any one fit for a stand of six. We had so often seen this sort in a dirty, miserable condition, owing, we presume, to the multiplicity of *bad breaks*, that we were unprepared to find anything bearing that name half so handsome. Ambassador de Holland was also in first-rate character, and though apt to break in the feathering, still, from its general good form, purity, and marking, no collection should be without it. Here was pointed out to us Lucullus, a feathered bizarre, in fine condition. This variety we had bloomed the previous season, and were highly pleased with it, its cup being short, the feathering well laid on, and the interior of the flower purity itself. Amongst other good bizarres, we may mention Crompton's Lord Lilford, a perfect feather, and a fit rival to that old-established favourite, Royal Sovereign. As a matter of course, it is still scarce,

though there are several bad *breaks* in cultivation, of which purchasers should *beware*. In corroboration of the views taken by Mr. Hardy, relative to the identity of certain feathered bizarres, as detailed in our first number, we find that Duke of Lancaster, George the Fourth, and Royal Sovereign, are similar in every respect, the foliage being long, thin, and pointed, whilst Platoff is wholly distinct in habit of growth, the leaves being stronger, much broader, and more obtuse. Pass Perfecta, or Emperor Charles, was fine, and though not coming up to the standard, is a variety which, as collections are now constituted, will not be very easily *shaken off* at an exhibition. In flames, there was our old favourite, Abercrombie, which no cultivator should fail possessing; and a fine strain of Leonotus Posthumous, which, though a trifle too long in the cup, is a splendid dark flower. In the rose class, we particularly noticed Walmsley's Princess Royal, a clean cupped, beautifully marked flamed rose. Were it not for its defect of speedily *flushing*, or the colour becoming confused, it would be much more valuable. We saw a young and fresh bloom in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, at a subsequent period, which certainly was very fine, and when caught in condition, would undoubtedly prove a *teaser* to the majority of flames out. Lady Lilford is also in the same class, sufficiently low for the first row, pure, good cup, and lively cherry red markings. As we have seen it this season, we should say it is more likely to prove an *interesting bed flower* than one which can be grown with the expectation of cutting for competition as a pan flower. The well known and excellent varieties of Heroine, Lady Crewe, La Van Dicken, Agalia, were as fine as the most fastidious judge could desire. Haigh's Lady Grey was not in bloom, appearing to be a late sort. Gill's Duchess of Lancaster, a flamed bybloemen, is long in the cup, pale in colour, but pure, and well marked; it is an interesting and pretty sort. Amongst breeder tulips, we observed Sir H. Pottinger (Slater's), a light bybloemen, fine in form,

and pure; Anastasia (rose), Portia and Pucelle (byblœmens), and Lara (bizarre).

We were ten days too soon for the extensive collection of Mr. Slater; they, however, promised well, being in fine and healthy growth. Here were pointed out to us four beds, eighteen yards each, and about one hundred and seventy rows of seedlings, with a quantity of seedling florists' flowers coming forward.

The bed of Mr. R. Dixon was not in general bloom, though some fine seedling breeders particularly attracted our notice, amongst which were Bion (byb.) and Virginia (rose). We understand that these break to first-rate flowers in their respective classes.

Buckley's Beauty (feathered byblœmen) appears early, and was certainly most beautiful. Huntress, a feathered rose, raised from Count, and Monument, also a first-rate feather, was originated from seed by this gentleman. The latter flower we also saw near Nottingham; certainly the best we have had the pleasure of noticing this season. Of these collections, and the numerous and well-selected varieties which they contain, we hope to have full descriptions to lay before our readers in an early number.

Our visits to the exhibitions at Leicester, Derby, and Nottingham, and to the beds of the chief florists in the immediate neighbourhood, have given us the greatest delight. And first and foremost we would note that splendid flower Dickson's Duke of Devonshire, fine in either state, flame or feather; it stands well up, is a fourth-row flower, a fine yellow, with a deep feather of dark brown, which becomes nearly black as it ages, the cup is large and well proportioned, somewhat in the way of Polyphemus, and in fact so good that no bed can be considered complete without it. At the exhibition at Derby, Pilot (Gibbons's) was shown in good style. This flower has form, purity, and marking in its favour, but may be classed as a red, and certainly it was very fine. Cotterell's Elizabeth is a feathered bizarre, beautifully clean, good form, feathered with reddish brown, a second or third row flower; it is new and scarce.

Strong's King has been in good character this season, *clean*, and well marked, but hardly *up to the mark* for the northern fancy. Bishop of Exeter, originated in one of the midland counties, is a pleasing variety, fine in colour, pure, with a narrow feathering; it is, however, rather too long in the cup for the *Warrington standard*, but will be grown for some years to come. Diadem has been broken this season, a rich and splendid flamed bizarre; on some soils it may come with the slightest tinge imaginable, but it will be found an addition to the most select bed; we have not seen so fine a marked or high coloured flower this season. Defiance may certainly "*bid defiance*" to many feathered bizarres; it is pure, equal in marking to a good Sovereign, or Charles X., and is somewhat shorter in the cup than either of these splendid varieties; a first-rate sort. It would make a fine cross with Duke of Devonshire. Titian (Strong's), though high coloured and a desirable flower, is not sufficiently clean to abide the severe ordeal which pan flowers are now subject to; it has, however, been shown in fine order. Pompei Funebre, a first-rate flame, has been especially good; and Surpass Optimus, from its purity, good colour, and beautiful marking, will long be a decided favourite, though its form might be better. Magnet is a clean heavily feathered bizarre, somewhat in the character of a good Sidney, or Magnum Bonum; we believe the stock, which is yet in the raiser's hands, is only four blooming bulbs and four offsets. Egyptian King, an intensely dark and broad feathered flower, perfectly clean, both in cup and stamens; the yellow on the outside is somewhat lighter than the interior, and the lower part of the petals had, when we saw it, an "*awkward bulge*." (We were given to understand that the bloom had been injured by the frost. We may here notice that the petals are of great substance, and we fear they will prove too long; still it may be grown better, and will make a striking feature on a bed. Earl of Nottingham, a most beautiful dark

our bar won in 20 years ago and will be

flamed bizarre, pure, and of fine character. This variety was originated by the late John Thackeray, Esq. and must be seen to be appreciated.

In concluding our remarks for the present month, we shall name a few bizarre tulips which young beginners may confidently buy. They may have defects; for, in fact, however perfect the flower may be in its formation, as applicable to the functions assigned to it by nature; still, as florists, we admire some peculiar form, colour, &c. or a combination of these, which some varieties possess in a much greater degree than others; hence their value, the nearer they approach to this desideratum. The sorts enumerated are what are considered good in the midland counties.

*Surpass Catafalque*.—A very fine feathered bizarre.

*Magnum Bonum, or Sir Sidney Smith*.—Not so good a cup as the preceding, but feathers correctly, and is much liked.

*Royal Sovereign*.—A noble sort, clean and fine, sports occasionally, but when right, a first-rate pan flower.

*Old Dutch Catafalque*.—Fine in form, pure, and good either as a flame or feather.

*Polyphemus*.—Of first-rate form, stiff petal, rather pale in the ground colour, but as a pan flower, it has few compeers.

*Captain White*.—A very favourite sort; it is apt to indent a little on the top of the petals, but it is of good form and colour, stands long in bloom, and is generally very heavily flamed.

*Sheet Anchor*.—Supposed from the same breeder as Polyphemus, but certainly a first-rate break, and is usually beautifully feathered.

*Donzelli*.—Rather long in the cup, but clean and a well marked flame. It should be grown.

These will be found good sorts to begin with, adding the varieties mentioned in the previous part of this article, as means and opportunities suit. The amateur will not be far wrong, if he grows them well.

Having extended this article further than we intended, we must defer the notices of the other novelties till our August number, when we shall pursue the subject, hoping that if any of our friends or readers differ with us in opinion, they will favour us with their communications.

## CULTIVATION OF THE PANSY FROM SEED.

THE seed may be collected through all the summer months; but it should be taken only from the very best flowers, leaving but one or two pods to ripen on each stem.

The seed should be sown from the middle of April to the middle of June, but not later; because it is desirable that the plants should flower before the summer passes. They are best sown in the open border, in a shady situation, where the soil retains its moisture, which is of much importance to the young plants. Sow the seed in a light rich soil. Make the soil level on the surface with the back of the spade, and cover the seed about the eighth of an inch deep, again lightly pressing the surface of the bed with the spade.

When the plants are grown to the height of an inch, they should be pricked out, at from four to six inches apart, in a bed of the soil already described (page 154) as best for flowering plants, in a part of the garden which is rather shady; let them be well watered with a can having a rose with very fine holes in it, and they must be shaded for a few days, until established.

It is quite indispensable to keep them free from weeds, both whilst in the seedling bed and after transplanting.

It is not advisable to remove the young plants during the months of July or August, the weather generally being too hot and dry. As they bloom, throw out all that have not some strong recommendation; looking more to form than to colour, this being the first requisite in a good pansy. Discard all that have flimsy petals, or notched and rough edges. Such as are good, cut back early, that they may throw out side shoots more abundantly, and increase by cuttings as fast as possible.

The first object to be desired in a pansy is symmetry of the flower. The petals should be large,

thick, broad, and flat, lying upon each other so as to form a circle; the colour should not be cloudy, but clear and distinct. Worms, snails, and slugs commit great depredations, if care be not taken to prevent them.

A. Z.

Lancashire, April 14, 1847.

## ESSAY ON THE CARNATION.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

*WE have been repeatedly solicited by correspondents to give an article on the carnation, its properties, and cultivation. In complying with this request, we have revised an article written by us some time ago, adapting it to the present state of this beautiful flower. The article was originally delivered as an "Essay on the Carnation," before the Beeston and Chilwell Horticultural Society; and again, by especial request, before the members of the Nottingham Horticultural Society.*

Without wishing at all to depreciate other varieties of what are termed florist's flowers, and of which I sincerely wish there were more cultivators, and though I may have rather a prejudice in favour of the tulip, yet it must be allowed that the subject of this evening's essay, "The Carnation," is a universal favourite, and from its more speedy increase, by means of seeds, pipings, and layers, it may truly be designated everybody's flower; and in fact, rich and poor seem to agree in this, *whatever else they may differ in*, that the carnation is worthy of their greatest care, and draws from both, unequivocal expressions and feelings of delight.

There have been so many treatises written on its cultivation, and rules laid down for propagation and management, that, in attempting to describe a system, I fear I may run some danger of being suspected of plagiarism; or perhaps, after having endeavoured



to enlighten my friends round about me, I may, after all, find that they even can tell me what I am unacquainted with; at all events, I do not mean to assume to myself any extraordinary ability, neither do I suppose that I shall be considered an oracle; but as our object is mutual instruction, perhaps the few observations brought forward this evening may elucidate fresh facts, or lead to other ways or systems of management which shall be more congenial to the habits of this favourite and fragrant flower.

The generic name of the carnation is *dianthus*, derived from two Greek words—*dios*, divine, and *anthos*, a flower, alluding to the delightful scent, as well as the beauty of its blossoms. A near relative is the common garden pink, which has been so much improved of late years. The sweetwilliam, too, belongs to the same family; and many others, of which we need not at this time take any further notice.

I have just told you that the generic or family name of the carnation is *dianthus*; its specific name or title, by which it is distinguished from other members of its tribe, is *caryophyllus flore pleno*, or the double-flowering carnation.

By the scientific name it is usually called by botanists, but florists in general content themselves with the English name, and by that it is generally known.

This flower is divided into several classes, and of late years these have been increased, indicated by the colour of the flowers. There are now shown at different exhibitions in the country—

*Scarlet Bizarres*—each petal being striped with two colours, scarlet and a dark maroon, on a white ground, varying in intensity in different sorts.

*Crimson Bizarres*—the stripes also consisting of two colours, but approaching in their tint more to a rose colour and purple. In this class there is a subdivision, styled pink and purple, which are lighter and more lively in their shades.

There are yet three other classes, consisting of *Flakes*. Their colours are scarlet, rose or pink, and

purple of various hues; some being many shades darker than others in each of the divisions.

After the flakes come the varieties called *Picotees*, or carnations with either spotted or striped margins to their petals. Of these there is a very great variety, and they may be classed under the heads of scarlet, red, rose-coloured, and purple. Formerly they were only shown in two classes—red and purple—without any reference to the extent of the colouring; but now each class is subdivided into heavy-edged, with the colour thickly laid on round the margin of the leaf, and are called in Lancashire striped picotees; and feathered, or light-edged, where the colour touches the leaf in an unbroken delicate line.

Having described the classes, it will perhaps be well to name a few in each division which, in this neighbourhood, are considered first-rate. Some time ago, application having been made to an extensive grower in the west of England for the best twenty-four, he gave the following:—

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—Roi des Capuchins, Fletcher's Duke of Devonshire, Willmer's Conquering Hero, and Strong's Duke of York.

*Crimson Bizarres*.—Cartwright's Rainbow, Young's Earl Grey, Wood's William IV., and Wakefield's Paul Pry.

*Pink and Purple Bizarres*.—Stone's Venus, Hooper's Rajah, Chambers's Hebe, and Gould's Prince George.

*Rose Flakes*.—Brooks's Flora's Garland, Coquette de Paris, Jacques's Phœbus, and Clark's Lady Farnham.

*Purple Flakes*.—Dr. Franklin, Brooks's Duke of Beaufort, Willmer's Defiance, and Queen of Sheba.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—Hufton's Magnificent, Brown's Bishop of Gloucester, Addenbrook's Lydia, and Fletcher's Beauty of Birmingham.

*Red Picotees*.—Martin's Princess Victoria, Ely's John Bull, Prince George, Wood's Ophelia, Willmer's Juno, Martin's Eminent, Willmer's Venus, and Russell's Incomparable.

*Purple Picotees*.—Jeeves's Moonraker, Martin's Queen Adelaide, Hufton's Miss Willoughby, Willmer's Mary Anne, Willmer's Louisa, Gibbons's Wm. IV., and Willmer's Queen.

These, then, are considered the best of that part of the country; and I make no doubt, from the ex-

tensive knowledge of the gentleman who supplied the list, that it is correct. However, there are not many of the sorts grown hereabouts; at least, the majority have not as yet come under my observation.

*Some few of these we still consider extra fine flowers, even amongst the present improved sorts. For instance, Brown's Bishop of Gloucester (S.F.) is remarkably good. Fletcher's Duke of Devonshire (S.B.) is of fine form, and if thinned to one or two buds, will often bring a first-rate flower. Cartwright's Rainbow (C.B.) is now excessively scarce, but should be grown, as occasionally it will come very handsome. Wakefield's Paul Pry, rather narrow in the petal and marking, is still a very favourite sort. Brookes's Flora's Garland (R.F.) has many good properties.*

Before mentioning the sorts which are most in favour here, I may just observe, that I have read in some floral publication, that if a man raised a few good seedlings during a long life, he might consider himself fortunate.

But whether the air or soil of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Leicestershire, is peculiarly favourable, or whether fortune smiles more on the weavers and cottagers of these districts,—one thing is certain, that immense quantities are raised, and good and beautiful flowers have lately been introduced into the fancy; and it is no uncommon thing for a florist to raise from two to ten good seedlings in a year, fit to take a place in any stand, and which will beat the old varieties into the bargain. The great desideratum in all flowers, whether carnations or picotees, is the unsullied purity of the body-colour (if it may be so termed): this should be a pure white, let the class be what it may; for should it be spotted or tinged, however imposing the grandeur of the other colours may be, it is allowed to be a very serious drawback indeed.

*We yet trust to see floral societies hold out the fostering hand of encouragement to the yellow picotee;*

*as we are sure that clear and well marked flowers would be highly prized, and if of equal properties with the other varieties, would be a striking feature in a stand.*

In bizarres the colours should, as much as possible, balance, though I am well aware that there is often a great preponderance of one or the other ; still, to see the stripes running parallel to each other, and distributed equally over the flower, is certainly a near approach to perfection, as far as colour goes.

In flakes the same proportions are desirable, though some have too much colour, as I am inclined to think is the case sometimes with Addenbrook's Lydia (scarlet flake), whilst the reverse is the case with Hogg's Paddington Beauty, in the rose class, at least if we have it correct in this neighbourhood.

As for picotees, a clearness and decision of marking is requisite, and the fringed or notched petal is now considered a deformity. A smooth edge, or, as it is usually termed a rose leaf, with the colour bright and distinct, is required by all connoisseurs of this delicate and much admired class.

Having said thus much of colour, I shall point out a few of our leading sorts. First, then,

*Scarlet Bizarres.*—Easom's Admiral Curzon, Rainforth's Gameboy, Hufton's Patriarch' Hepworth's True Briton, Martin's Splendid, and Elliott's Duke of Sutherland.

*Crimson Bizarres.*—Ely's Lord Milton and Hugo Meynell, Wallis's Young Earl Grey, Mansley's Robert Burns, Marris's Thomas Hood, Wakefield's Paul Pry.

*Purple Flakes.*—Ely's Mango, Brabbin's 'Squire Meynell, Pollard's First-rate, Willmer's Mayo, Ely's John Wright, and Martin's President.

*Scarlet Flakes.*—Brown's Bishop of Gloucester, Greasley's Mary Ann, Wilson's William the Fourth, Addenbrook's Lydia, Weldon's Earl of Litchfield, and Willmer's Hero of Middlesex.

*Rose Flakes.*—Ely's Lovely Ann, Greasley's Village Maid, Tomlyn's Brisies, Ely's Lady Ely, Pickering's Mrs. Pickering, and Hudson's Lady Flora.

*Red Picotees.*—*Light-edged*: Sharp's Hector, Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan, Wood's Queen Victoria (rather small but fine

form), Sharp's Countess de Grey, Barringer's Unique, and Matthews's Ne Plus Ultra.—*Heavy-edged*: Jessop's Sir W. Middleton, Marris's Sylvanus, Sharp's Duke of Wellington, and Wildman's Isabella.

*Purple Picotees*.—*Light-edged*: Marris's Lady Sale, Matthews's Enchantress, Brinkler's Perfection, Gidden's Vespasian, Burroughs's Duke of Newcastle, and John's Prince Albert.—*Heavy-edged*: Sharp's Agitator, Sharp's Invincible, Nulli Secundus, Crask's Victoria, Dickson's Trip to Cambridge, and Ely's Field Marshal.

*Rose-edged Picotees*.—*Light-edged*: Barnard's Mrs. Barnard, Lady Alice Peel, Garratt's Lady Dacre, Crouch's Ivanhoe, Hudson's Adeline, and Wain's Queen Victoria.—*Heavy-edged*: Willmer's Princess Royal, Green's Victoria, Wilton's Fanny Irby, Gatcliff's Proconsul, Fanny Irby, and Burroughs's Miss Osborne.

[To be continued.]

## Part II.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

### CULTURE OF PELARGONIUMS.

BY W. CATLEUGH, HANS-PLACE.

I PREPARE the soil of an open border, about the middle of July, and plant my cuttings. The situation chosen is exposed to the sun during the middle of the day. In about six weeks the cuttings will be sufficiently rooted to remove, and I pot them into sixty-sized pots. To prevent the worms getting into the pots, they are placed upon a temporary stage, and allowed to remain in a shady situation about three weeks, by which time the plants will be well established, and bear removing to a more exposed spot, where, under the influence of the sun and air, the wood will attain a necessary degree of hardness. Here they remain, until taken into the house for the winter, which is generally done about the end of September; the time varies according to the season, but they are

housed before danger arises from frost. To improve the appearance of the plants, and make them compact and bushy, I stop them at the third or fourth joint, and shift them into forty-eight sized pots, using a little turfy loam and sand with the compost, to allow the water to pass freely through the soil. I give but little air during eight or ten days; the plants will then be re-established, and afterwards as much air may be given as the state of the atmosphere will permit, until the beginning of December. The side-lights must be kept closed during the prevalence of cold winds. The pots by this time will be filled with roots, and the plants will require shifting into thirty-two-sized pots. The bone-dust which is now added must be used with caution; being of a drying nature it is not used near the surface of the soil. The shoots are again stopped at the third joint; the house is kept at a temperature of forty-five degrees Fahrenheit for about ten days, and then allowed to fall to forty, or forty-two degrees, at which it is kept. The glues are damped two or three times every night, to prevent the air from becoming too dry; and a little top air is admitted whenever the weather is favourable.

About the middle of February those which are intended to be large specimen plants are shifted again into twenty-four-sized pots; those of vigorous growth will require a size larger. A small stick is now put to each stem, to train them into uniform and well-shaped plants. In the beginning of April, when fires are discontinued, the plants are syringed over the top three times a week; this is done about four o'clock, at the time the house is closed, and continued during three or four weeks. The house is well damped every evening at the bottom, and the top sashes opened the first thing in the morning, to allow the damp air to escape; and during the day all the air is admitted that can be given with safety. The plants when beginning to bloom, are freely watered and protected from the scorching rays of the sun during the middle of the day by means of canvass, and are thus retained

in blossom a much longer time than would be possible if this presantion were omitted. When the plants are housed the decayed leaves are removed, and whenever the green fly makes its appearance the house is well fumigated; to do this effectually, it must be performed when the plants are in a dry state, and they must be well watered the day following.

When the flowering is over, the plants are exposed for about a fortnight to the sun and air, to harden the wood before being cut down. Those which are intended as specimen plants the second season, after heading down, are placed in a sheltered situation, when little water is given, and as soon as the new shoots are an inch long, are re-potted into pots from one to two sizes smaller, the old soil is shaken from the roots, and good drainage given. The plants thus treated are kept in better health during the winter, from having less soil about their roots. When re-potted, they are placed upon a stage, in a shady situation, removed into the house at the proper time, and undergo the same treatment the second winter, as described for the first. When these plants which are intended for exhibition begin to show their bloom, they receive a little attention; a little liquid manure is occasionally given them; they are no longer syringed over the top; bees are kept out of the house by means of gauze blinds, and every precaution is taken to preserve their beauty; they are never allowed to flag; from exposure to the sun, or want of water. I recommend every grower to begin early to train his plants for exhibition; when the shoots are young and tractable, any direction may be given to the stems; a uniform and handsome appearance will arise from the practice, and the plants will require fewer supports, and less pulling about at the time they receive their final dressing. The flowers should be so arranged as to present an equal distribution of bloom over the head of the plant, to effect which, *the stems must be secured to small willow twigs.* Practice alone can teach the art of preparing flowers

for exhibition; the less art is employed the better, and the means should always be kept out of sight.

The compost I use for my pelargoniums is the following:—Two barrowful of good maiden loam, with the turf; one ditto well-rotted cowdung, three years old—this requires to be frequently turned over in winter, to destroy the worms and insects; one peck of silver sand; one ditto of bone dust. For the winter-repotting a little more sand is added.

## ROSES—TREATMENT OF THE SEED, SOWING, ETC.

The hips of all the varieties of roses will in general be fully ripe by the beginning of November; they should then be gathered and kept entire, in a flower-pot, filled with dry sand, carefully guarded from mice. In February, or by the first week in March, they must be broken to pieces with the fingers, and sown in flower-pots, such as are generally used for sowing seeds in, called "seed-pans," but for rose seeds they should not be too shallow; nine inches in depth will be enough; these should be nearly but not quite filled with a rich compost of rotten manure and sandy loam or peat; the seeds may be covered to the depth of about half an inch, with the same compost; a piece of kiln wire must then be placed over the pot, fitting closely at the rim, so as to prevent the ingress of mice, which are passionately fond of rose seeds; there must be space enough between the wire and the mould for the young plants to come up, half an inch will probably be found enough; the pots of seed must never be placed under glass, but kept constantly in the open air, in a full sunny exposure, as the wire will shade the mould and prevent its drying. Water should be given occasionally in dry weather. The young plants will perhaps make their appearance in April or May, but very often the seed does not vegetate till the second spring. When they have made



their "rough leaves," that is when they have three or four leaves, exclusive of their seed leaves, they must be carefully raised with the point of a narrow pruning knife, potted into small pots, and placed in the shade. If the weather is very hot and dry, they may be covered with a handglass for a few days. They may remain in those pots a month, and then be planted out into a rich border. By the end of August, those that are robust growers will have made shoots long enough for budding. Those that have done so may be cut down, and one or two strong stocks budded with each; these will, the following summer, make vigorous shoots, and the summer following, if left unpruned, to a certainty they will produce flowers. This is the only method to ensure seedling roses flowering the third year; many will do so that are not worked, but very often the superior varieties are shy bloomers on their own roots, till age and careful culture give them strength.

It may be mentioned here as treatment applicable to all seed-bearing roses, that when it is desirable the qualities of a favourite rose should preponderate, the petals of the flower to be fertilized must be opened gently with the finger; a flower that will expand in the morning should be opened the afternoon or evening previous, and the anthers all removed with a pair of pointed scissors; the following morning, when this flower is fully expanded, it must be fertilized with a flower of some variety of which it is desired to have seedlings partaking largely of its qualities. To exemplify this, we will suppose that a climbing moss rose with red or crimson flowers is wished for; the flowers of the Blush Ayrshire, which bears seed abundantly, may be selected, and before expansion the anthers removed; the following morning, or as soon after the operation as these flowers open, they should be fertilized with the Luxembourg Moss. If the operation succeed, seed will be procured from which the probability is that a climbing rose will be produced, with the habit and flowers of

the moss rose, or at least an approximation to them; and as these hybrids often bear seed freely, by repeating the process with them, the at present apparent remote chance of getting a climbing moss rose may be brought very near.

I mention the union of the moss and Ayrshire rose by way of illustration, and merely to point out to the amateur how extensive and how interesting a field of operations is open in this way. I ought to give a fact that has occurred in my own experience, which will tell better with the sceptical than a thousand anticipations. About four years since, in a pan of seedling moss roses, was one with a most peculiar habit, even when young; this has since proved a hybrid rose, partaking much more of the Scotch rose than of any other, and till the plant arrived at full growth I thought it a Scotch rose, the seed of which had by accident been mixed with that of the moss rose, although I had taken extreme care; to my surprise it has since proved a perfect hybrid, having the sepals and fruit of the Provence rose, with the spiny and dwarf habit of the Scotch rose; it bears abundance of hips, which are all abortive. The difference in the fruit of the moss and Provence rose, and those of the Scotch, is very remarkable, and this it was which drew my particular attention to the plant in question; it was raised from the same seed, and in the same seed pan as the single crimson moss rose. As this strange hybrid came from a moss rose accidentally fertilized, we may expect that art will do much more for us.

*Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide.*

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## GREENHOUSE RHODODENDRONS.

THE management of rhododendrons is in itself extremely simple, when understood; yet to explain it I must be allowed to go through it in a concise manner. These, like most other American shrubs, delight in

light fibrous heath mould, and should be allowed plenty of it, for they are not fond of frequent shifting. Re-potting should be performed immediately after blooming, that is, as soon as the flowers begin to fade; all the additional stimuli are then thrown into the production of a rich luxuriant growth, on which are based all future expectations. While growing, the plants should be kept in a temperature of about fifty-five or sixty degrees, and receive a very liberal supply of water; this usually occurs about the latter end of April and beginning of May, sometimes a week or two later, according to the period of flowering, and the formation of the new wood generally occupies from three to four weeks; after which follows the most particular point of their management: if the watering and warm temperature is continued beyond the period necessary for the due completion of this first growth, another production of new wood immediately follows, which is the sole cause of the non-production of flowers; the prevention of this second growth is what consequently requires the cultivator's most particular attention, and is almost the only important point in their culture. It must, however, be observed, that it is necessary to get the first-formed wood as large and strong as possible, or puny and few will be the flowers; but it is equally necessary to discontinue the watering, and to place the plant in a cool situation out of doors immediately it is completed. To do this exactly at the right time requires some considerable amount of practical skill; but when once ascertained correctly, every thing is perfectly easy; the plants then only require just enough water to preserve them from flagging, during the heat of summer, and at the usual time of housing plants, a warm situation in the greenhouse should be secured for them. If an early bloom is required, they may be placed in a gentle heat directly after Christmas, though this is better avoided, from the trouble it causes to properly check and ripen the first growth; because at that early period of the season in which

forced wood will be produced, it is not safe to place them out of doors, and a greenhouse is seldom cool enough to prevent the second growth. It must be understood, that all that has been said relates only to mature flowering plants. In the propagation and management of young plants there is no material difference, except that, as it will of course be desired to have them as large as possible, in the shortest possible time, the second growth may be encouraged rather than prevented.

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### RHODANTHE MANGLESII—ITS GROWTH & GENERAL TREATMENT.

THE cultivation of rhodanthe is simple, though requiring some nicety in the mode of carrying it out. The delicate nature of the roots renders the operation of re-potting one in which this nicety must be more than ordinarily brought into action; and no less in performing the continually recurring operation of watering is the most profound carefulness necessary. When, however, these matters are properly attended to, and something like the mode of treatment about to be recommended is carefully carried out, the cultivator will find his exertions rewarded with one of the loveliest forms which even the lavish and unsparing hand of nature has scattered in his path.

The seeds of rhodanthe should be sown in the early part of September, in well drained pots, using a mixture of decayed leaf mould and light maiden earth. On this the seeds are to be sown, and a very slight covering given them, but just enough to screen them from the light; the pots should then be placed in a gentle heat, and be kept moderately moist. As soon as the seeds have vegetated, and the plants have formed their first pair of leaves, they should be potted singly into small sixty-sized pots, which must be perfectly well drained, using a compost something similar

to that before recommended. The plants are to be located during the winter months in a warm position in the greenhouse, and attention paid to re-potting them frequently, when they show signs of vigorous growth, which will generally happen to be the case sometime in January. The kind of soil to be recommended for these final shiftings, should have a little rotten manure added to the ingredients already mentioned, and the addition of a little silver sand would have a beneficial effect. The size of the pot in which they are to be bloomed, is a point which must be regulated by the condition of the plants. If they have been grown vigorously in their earlier stages, a twenty-four-sized pot will not be too large for them; whilst on the other hand, if they were stunted at that period, so as to have induced an early blooming state, they will not require so large a pot, neither will they form such handsome plants.

#### DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF NEW CALCEOLARIAS.

- Bate Rock** (Lee's).—Dark crimson ground, firm substance, superior form, marking across the centre of the bloom resembling a gold chain. Decidedly superior to Kinghorn's Masterpiece; obtained the Caledonian Horticultural Society's certificate of merit on the 3d ult.
- Lord Maclesfield**.—Cream-coloured ground, with large dark blood blotches towards the throat, and diminishing to hieroglyphical markings towards the lower part of the flower; full built and free bloomer.
- Dandie Diamond**.—Dark yellow ground, with bold hieroglyphic markings in centre, having a decided rim of similar marking round the edge; very large circular bloom, a first-class flower.
- Dirk Hatterick**.—Light copper-coloured ground, with strong long shaped markings at top, of a dark reddish brown colour, and gradually verging into small circular spotting at bottom; bloom large, well up, a most abundant flowerer, and strong dwarf habit; a decided novelty.
- Bride of Lamhermoor**.—Rich yellow ground, profusely covered with continuous deep blood-red markings, boldest at top, and gradually changing to small irregular figures at bottom; full bloom and excellent shape.

*Meg Merrilies*.—Pale yellow ground, large flower, fine shape, with dark red blotching, diminishing to spots of same colour towards the margin; abundant flowerer.

*Hamiltonii*.—Rich sparkling yellow ground, beautifully marked with elongated irregular reddish brown figures all over the surface of the flower, each figure surrounded with dark red circular markings; flowers large; in the order of *Standishii*, but altogether superior.

*General Tom Thumb*.—Copper ground, regularly marked with crimson spots all over the bloom; flower large, and very abundant, dwarf habit; a great novelty.

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

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**RHODODENDRONS.**—Mr. Waterer, of Knaphill, Surrey, has adopted an excellent plan of introducing his beautiful plants to the inhabitants of the metropolis. He has this season formed a magnificent show of American plants in full flower, under a large awning, or tent, in the King's-road, Chelsea. They have been brought from his nursery, with large balls of soil, and planted with much taste and judgment, so as to form a most beautiful and agreeable promenade. The kalmias, rhododendrons, and azaleas, were most luxuriant, and formed a splendid *coup d'œil*. Amongst the most attractive azaleas, flowering there in all their native beauty, we may mention a few varieties of the old *Azalea pontica*. The following, we understand, are British-raised varieties, and certainly are of first-rate character:—*Conspicua*, a very splendid light orange; *Transparens*, fine yellow; *Imperialis*, orange red; and *Ne plus ultra*, deep orange red, with the upper petals bright yellow, forming a most beautiful contrast. Of rhododendrons now becoming an especial favourite amongst cultivators of hardy shrubs, from the ease with which they are hybridized and the certainty of obtaining fresh varieties, we may notice *Everestianum*, with large lilac flowers, upper petals spotted with green, forming large and

beautiful heads; *Celestinum*, an extremely delicate pink variety, and a profuse bloomer; *Album elegans*, blush white, thickly spotted in the upper petals with yellow; and *Catawhiense splendens*, a very splendid high coloured pink variety, admired by every one who saw it. We trust Mr. Waterer has reaped the reward which his anxiety to gratify the plant-loving public justly entitles him to.

**AZALEAS.**—At the Royal South London Floricultural Society, Mr. Ivery exhibited two seedlings; one called *Beauty of Reigate*, white, striped and spotted with red; the other, to which a first-class certificate was awarded, was named *Conqueror*, and was a most beautifully shaped vermilion flower.

**BROCOLI.**—At the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society's Garden, Inverleith, on Friday, the 14th of May, were shown by Mr. Addison, gardener to the Earl of Wemyss, three very fine specimens of broccoli, namely, *Elliotson's Mammoth* (previously noticed in the *Midland Florist*), a very large and hardy sort, the head measuring two feet and a half in circumference; *Dickson's* (of Edinburgh) *Late Waterloo*, large and hardy; and *Maule's Brocoli*, sometimes called the *Invisible*, said not to be so hardy as the two above-named sorts, but possessing the desirable property of continuing in a fit state for the table a much longer period.

**CURRENT TREES.**—We were called on, a short time ago, to value the tenant-right of some gardens, through which the Nottingham and Mansfield railway would pass, and we were much struck with some beautiful currant trees, trained "en pyramide," in the allotment of Mr. L. Hall. At a distance they looked like hop-poles covered with a most luxurious bine; but on nearer inspection we found them loaded with fruit, from the ground to the extreme points, a height of at least twelve feet. These trees were some of them

above twenty years old, and had undergone a regular system of foreshortening, or summer pruning, which evidently was attended with the most beneficial results. We were so impressed with the excellency of the plan that we shall immediately commence training a large number of trees, which have been planted out for the purpose of bearing; as, by this system, the tree covers no more land at the base than an ordinary bush, but in consequence of being trained upwards, a much larger producing surface is obtained, and consequently more fruit *and more profit*.

### Part III.

#### QUERIES.



Not being able to obtain any *sandy loam* in this neighbourhood, can you, or any of your subscribers, inform me how to *make* it, by admixture of the separate earths, the quantity of each, and how long before fit for use? AN INQUIRER.

Perhaps some of your talented contributors would furnish the names and descriptions of a few sorts of gooseberries which come *very early* into use in their green or immature state, being also of a good size when thus early fit for use; seeing that there cannot be a question but that amongst the very numerous varieties of that useful fruit, there will be many sorts which possess the desired qualities in a pre-eminent degree. Upright growing trees, the other qualities equal, would be preferred; prolific and certain bearers would be indispensable. A few observations on the cultivation, and particularly on the best method of pruning these trees, so as to ensure heavy crops of fruit, would be peculiarly acceptable.—Desired also, the names and descriptions of a small assortment of strawberries (good bearers), which would form a continued succession of fruit, from the very earliest to the latest period of the season. The best method of culture, to ensure heavy crops of this fruit, would be esteemed.—Possibly some of your florist friends might furnish a few hints as to the best method and the preferable season for raising the polyanthus and auricula from seed; and also the after treatment of these flowers, so as to be enabled to obtain a tolerably good blow in the open garden.

Liverpool, May 28, 1847.

Homo.



Will the editor of the *Midland Florist* inform a subscriber where and at what price plants or seeds of the two following columbines (which I find described in the *Annals of Horticulture*, 1845, page 301,) may be obtained?

*Canadian C.*—Flowers pendant, red and orange, very handsome.

*Glaucous C.*—Flowers drooping, pale yellow, deliciously fragrant.

A LOVER OF THE COLUMBINE.

[Like our correspondent, we are great admirers of the columbine; and though it is not our usual practice to recommend nurserymen, as our pages are open for their advertisements, yet in this instance, we beg to inform "A Lover of the Columbine, that the *Aquiliga Canadensis* may be procured for 9d., and the *Aquiliga glauca* for 1s. 6d., of Messrs. Hugh Low and Co. Clapton, near London, as we see by their list, which we have just received.]

I give the following extract from the magazine of the Labourer's Friend Society:—"Lucerne requires a good and deep soil. The ground for it should be well dug, two spits deep, and the manure deposited at one spit deep."—It is not explained how the operation is performed, as no doubt labourers in general know how it is effected; but by a novice in such matters, as I am, some light thrown on the subject would be thankfully received. Is the earth, one spit deep, first removed, then some of the second, to make a vacancy, say a trench a foot wide, then throw over the soil and put in the dung, and when a space is trenched in this manner, to finish by throwing in the top soil? If you would give some instructions in trenching, showing the quantity of the several seeds required to cover a bed of given dimensions, and how it should be performed, I think it would make your useful work more acceptable to the generality of readers.—I perceive on the back of the last number of the *Midland Florist*, several gardener's works, would you be so kind as to point out the one most practically useful to a person having very little knowledge in these matters? I see one of Cobbett's, which, if I may judge of its merits by his *Cottage Economy*, must be an excellent book, as his knowledge was both theoretical and practical; but the one most eligible in every respect I shall leave you to point out, as you are the best judge in such matters.

Liverpool, June 3.

J. W.

MOHL'S MANURE.—Wishing to try Mohl's crystallized manure, I bought a small box of it, but I find great difficulty in using it, as it is extremely hard to dissolve, in water at least. Perhaps you can give me some information as to the best manner of using it.—Would you also inform me of the best and hardiest sort of tree to cover or grow against a wall, in an open part of the town? The wall is due east, and the place airy.

Nottingham, June 16.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Through the medium of the *Midland Florist*, would you inform me of the best time to make mushroom beds, and also the proper mode of cultivating them? as I have made several trials, but have hitherto been unsuccessful.

J. P. DUDLEY.

Can you, or any of your correspondents, give me a list of a few of the best apples, pears, and plums, not only adapted for this part of the country, but also most suitable for small gardens?

J. R.

I have often heard it said that the nut called Pearson's Prolific was not raised from seed by the party whose name is attached to it, yet in Rivers's descriptive catalogue of fruits it is stated to have been originated by Mr. Pearson. Now I think the utility of your little work would be increased, if you would give the history of the various fruits generally cultivated; and when practicable, state where raised and by whom, whether the seed from which raised was fertilized by hand, or accidentally impregnated, &c.

W. P. S.

I am a great admirer of hardy evergreens. Do, in your next publication, give me a list of the best twenty-four. I have lately been building, and am anxious to get some planted early in the autumn, round and about my house. From your experience, the proprietors of suburban residences, like myself, hope to reap much benefit and instruction.

Nottingham.

R. W. M.

Can you inform me, through the medium of your next number of the *Florist*, what means I can use to prevent Dutch savoy from clubbing. I have planted them for several years, and they grow and look well for a time, but then dwindle away. When taken up, in some instances the bottoms are larger than the tops. I examined the plants prior to setting, and where any clubs were to be seen I cut them away.

Birmingham, June 11.

AN AMATEUR SUBSCRIBER.

[We have found that if the roots are dipped previous to planting, in a mixture of soot and mould, blended together by the addition of water till of the consistency of paint, that we have escaped the "club." We would advise a dressing of lime occasionally, as the disease is always most prevalent in old cultivated gardens.]

I have heard that on the Continent particular attention is paid to the raising of lilies from seed, and that many splendid varieties have been originated, between the various sections of this beautiful tribe. Can you tell me whether anything of the kind has been attempted in this country, and with what success?

[Yes; Mr. Groom, of Clapham Rise, near London, who is the most successful grower of these plants in England, has raised numbers of beautiful hybrids, which he informs us are readily bought up by the continental dealers.]

I am yet pestered with green fly on my greenhouse plants. How must I destroy them? Your speedy answer will greatly oblige,  
 Lucy.

[Fumigate with tobacco, and syringe the plants with diluted tobacco water. If this is persevered in, the aphid must be destroyed.]

Has any of your correspondents purchased Mitchell's Royal Albert Rhubarb. Seeing Mr. Myatt's name mixed up with the advertisement, I was induced to write to my seedsman in London for two roots, which, including carriage, cost me about 14s. when I received them. I cut the two roots into four sets; the week after it was advertised at 2s. per set. From appearances, I am led to suppose that it will not answer the expectations of purchasers.  
 F. F.

[From the answer we received from Mr. Mitchell (see page 27), we were induced to order a dozen sets. We must say that hitherto appearances are against it; but we should be sorry to condemn it till we have really found that it is unworthy the high character it was let out with.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**J.M.**—The rose will not succeed either grafted or budded on the crab.

**C.**—Try either Brain's or Potter's liquid guano. It will be found highly beneficial to the majority of plants, either in pots or open borders, if the directions given with it are properly followed. Liquid manure, whether the drainings of dunghills, urine, &c. should not be applied over the plants, but to the roots; after a shower of rain will be found the best time.

**FLORA** will find her query answered in the present number. The list we will supply at the close of the blooming season; in the mean time see the answer to R.

**ROSES.**—**B. S. P.**—See the article on budding, in our June number. They are propagated by cuttings, grafts, and layers, which methods will soon be described.

**E. J. B.**—Press of matter prevents us just now, but in a very early number his wishes will be attended to. We think Mr. W. Harrison, of Felton, Northumberland, has described Highland Mary; we have no doubt he would give the information desired.

A YOUNG BEGINNER will find an article on the cultivation of the geranium in the present number.

**POLYANTHUSES IN POTS.**—I am an extensive grower of polyanthuses, and cultivate a fine collection in pots; by proper treatment, they may be kept quite as healthy, and are much more conveniently attended to than on the open border. My plants are the picture of health, and at an early period I shall be happy to lay before the readers of the *Midland Florist* my method of growing them.

Manchester.

R. M.

**HEPATICAS.**—In reply to I. G. C., I beg to say, there is some doubt whether there has been a double white hepatica; most certainly *not a double yellow*. The former, in old gardening books, is said to have existed years ago, but is now lost. In some parts of the country hepaticas seed freely. I. G. C. should try to cross the three single varieties, red, white, and blue, with each other; the produce of these would, doubtless, bring some fine sorts, with a possibility of raising occasional double ones. I have seen several distinct varieties from the Continent, thus originated.

S. W.

Seeing in your truly valuable periodical of this month, an inquiry from one of your correspondents, for a descriptive list of a few of the best picotees in cultivation, whether new or old, and having been a grower of that lovely tribe of flowers for upwards of ten years, sparing no expense to obtain the newest and best, I take the liberty of forwarding you a list of a few in each class, which have come under my inspection; and I can confidently say, that no collection, however choice, can be perfect without them. Every one of them your correspondent (North Lancashire) may obtain from Mr. Dickson, Acre-lane, Brixton, near London, with perfect confidence that he will get them true to name and character.

AN AMATEUR.

**Purple.**—Matthews's Enchantress, splendid light edge; Burroughs's Duke of Newcastle, ditto; Dickson's trip to Cambridge, first-rate heavy edge; Willmer's Prince Royal, ditto; Wood's Princess Alice, ditto; Ely's Favourite, light edge; Sharp's Agitator, heavy edge.

**Red.**—Barringer's Unique, light edge; Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan, ditto; Wildman's Isabella, splendid heavy edge; Jessop's Sir William Middleton, ditto; Sharp's Duke of Wellington, ditto; Matthews's Ne plus ultra, light edge; Cook's President, heavy edge.

**Rose, or Scarlet.**—Green's Queen Victoria, the best in its class; Barnard's Mrs. Barnard, splendid light edge; Burroughs's Lady Alice Peel, ditto; Willmer's Princess Royal, ditto; Kirtland's Squire Annesley, heavy edge.

**Yellow.**—Martin's Queen Victoria, heavy edge; Barnard's Euphemia, ditto; Brooks's Aristides, ditto.

**JAMES WALKER.**—The polyanthus alluded to will shortly be advertised in the *Midland Florist*.

**FINE GERANIUMS.**—R.—Zenobia, Rosy Circle, Arabella, Duke of Cornwall, Hebe's Lip, Hoyle's Titus, Sultana, Duchess of Leinster, Gustavus, Magog, Rosamond, and Blanche.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JULY.

**Carnations** will require much attention this month; tying regularly as they spindle up for flowering. Weak layers should not be allowed to carry more than one bud for blooming; and the aphid or greenfly must by all means be kept down. This may be effected by brushing off with a large camel hair brush, or dusting with scotch snuff. As the buds increase in size they must be tied up, to prevent the calyx bursting; and this is best done with thread that has been beeswaxed, which after being put round the bud twice or thrice, may be fastened by twisting the ends between the thumb and finger.

**Tulip bulbs** will now be ready; these must be taken carefully up, leaving the roots, &c., till the whole is dry, when they may be removed. Those which have been impregnated with a view of saving the seed, should be allowed to remain, placing over the capsule or seed-vessel, a glass, to prevent the wet settling on the top, which will often cause the destruction of the whole pod.

**Polyanthuses.**—Those seedlings which have got two or four rough leaves, should be pricked out in a shady situation, and in a stout and rich compost. Do not divide the old plants yet; but allow the heads of seed to be perfected.

**Pinks.**—These flowers are decidedly in the ascendant; we may therefore expect great improvement, and we know of no flower which will so well repay the trouble bestowed; for in truth, every body admires "*the pink*" either for its beauty or perfume. Pipings may be struck, as they get long and strong enough, and the buds that are not already passed away, may be tied, as recommended for the carnation. Hybridizing must not be lost sight of; for the great secret in raising good seedlings is the judicious accomplishment of this important point.

**Ranunculuses.**—After the bloom is over and the grass begins to fade, it is highly essential that they should be kept dry, till they are taken up. When saturated with moisture at this period, the roots are apt to emit fresh roots, which is highly detrimental, and often causes the destruction of the bulbs.

**Dahlias** must be carefully fastened as they grow, training the shoots so that they may have abundance of light and air; for,

as Mr. Turner, of Chalvey, shows in his instructions on the subject, this is essential to the future well being and success of the plants.

Many shrubs will be in full beauty at this season, particularly *rhododendrons*, *roses*, &c. The latter, when they have formed large heads as standards, will require properly staking, or they are apt to be injured by the wind.

Attend to all climbing plants, either on walls or trellises, and tie or nail in the shoots as they require it. Some make very rapid growth at this season of the year, and will require constant attention. Stake all plants, such as the tall growing *phloxes*, *asters*, *everlasting peas*, and other varieties of *lathyrus*, which are apt to be blown over with the wind.

All bedded plants, as *verbenas*, *petunias*, *salvias*, and *heliotropes*, should be stopped, or have the extreme ends removed, to induce a bushy growth; and either pegged down, to cover the surface of the soil, or tied up, as the case may require.

Pot off such plants as *œnomotheras*, *double wallflowers*, &c., which have rooted; increase by slips those things which it is desirable to multiply; and fill up any spaces in the beds or borders, with *scarlet geraniums*, &c.

In the vegetable garden, continue as opportunity serves, to plant out plenty of *Brussels sprouts*, *savoys*, *curled kale*, &c.; and the various sorts of salading may be sown for succession, or planted out where required, such as *cress*, *lettuce*, *endive*, &c.

Though late for *peas*, still a few might be tried for the chance of a late crop, which would prove valuable should they succeed.

*Celery* should be planted for the main crop, in shallow drills, in the lower part of which, rotted dung, leaves, &c., has been well incorporated with the soil. Seymour's Superb, is a fine and solid variety, and should be extensively cultivated.

On ground which has been cleared of *radishes*, *turnips* may be sown. Snowball or Early Six-weeks, will be found the best.

Top *Broad Beans*, and as all crops are gathered, remove the stalks and tops, and immediately dig over the piece, applying to it either a dressing of manure or lime.

*Kidney Beans* if not staked, should immediately be done; and all crops will be the better for being hoed and stirred amongst.

In the fruit garden, attend to nailing and training wall trees, removing all foreright shoots, and those which will not come well to the wall, paling, or trellis.

The shoots of currants may be shortened; and we would strongly recommend our readers to train this useful fruit tree in the manner adopted by Mr. Hall, and alluded to in our present number.

At this season the mealy or American bug increases in a very rapid manner; the trees should be well rubbed with a hard brush, which will enter the crevices of the bark; or applications of soot, train oil, &c., will be found, amongst the numerous remedies, as useful as any.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.



### THE OPEN TULIP SHOW, AT DERBY.

We annex a list of the awards, to complete our notice of the open show, held in the Lecture Hall, Derby, on Whit Monday, and we cannot but express the gratification we had in being present at the meeting.

From our knowledge of the parties in whose hands the management lay, we were satisfied that no exertion would be spared to render the exhibition as complete as possible; but we knew also that their resources were limited, and this, coupled with the extremely unfavourable season, made us very cautious in our anticipations of the event. We were therefore most pleasingly disappointed, when, on our entrance, we found the hall literally replete with beauty; a number of public spirited gentlemen, with the nurserymen of the locality, having forwarded plants in large collections, for the decoration of the room, and thus made the exhibition as complete as possible.

The tulips and pansies were in excellent condition; and though from several collections not a single bloom could be produced, owing to the backward state of the season, the competition was unusually spirited, upwards of four hundred blooms being exhibited.

After the exhibition, upwards of fifty gentlemen dined together at the Nag's Head, and after the cloth had been removed and the usual loyal toasts responded to, Mr. Sadler, who was in the chair, rose and in an able speech, which was repeatedly cheered in its delivery, dwelt upon the desirability of a "Midland Horticultural Society," the good it would inevitably effect, and the advantages which Derby, from its central position, and facility of railroad communication, offered for such a meeting; and concluded by moving "That the Derby Floral Society be enlarged in its prospects, so as to admit of horticultural subjects, and the productions of modern scientific gardening,—and be in future called 'The Midland Horticultural Society.'"—The motion was quickly seconded by Mr. Dodwell, and unanimously adopted.

"The Judges" proposed by Mr. Parkinson; "The Editor of the *Midland Florist*," by Mr. Sadler; and "Mr. W. Hardy, the author of the article 'Perfection of Form in the Tulip,'" proposed by Mr. Parkinson, in a short speech, highly eulogistic of its merit, followed, and were acknowledged—the two last by Mr. J. F. Wood. Various toasts and speeches succeeded, which we have not space to enumerate, and the evening was spent in most excellent fellowship.

From the feeling of unity so eminently displayed, we are satisfied we shall not be disappointed in our prognostications of the success of the society, and we cordially commend it to the interest of our readers; and if so much can be effected by the exertions of a few uninfluential florists, helpless in all but their earnest desire to keep pace with the growing intelligence of the age, with how much reason may we not urge upon our floral friends to relax in no effort,—to yield in no determination, because of its seeming insignificance. Who can see in the germ of the acorn the magnificent growth of the gigantic oak? and who then shall say that in this slight beginning, we have not the embryo of a society, which shall rival in its meetings, as it certainly does in its advantages of situation, the thousand attractions of our great metropolitan gatherings.

TULIPS.—1st pan (seven blooms), Mr. Charles Spencer: *Magnum Bonum*, Captain White, Lady Crewe, *Triomphe Royale*, Lilliard,

Queen Charlotte, Amelia Breeder.—2nd pan, Mr. John Staton : Duke of Devonshire, Captain White, Triomphe Royale, ditto flamed, Sancta Sophia, Violet Alexander, Chellaston Seedling Breeder.—3rd pan, Mr. John Gibbons : Roi de Capuchins, Donzali, Rose of Sharon, Triomphe Royale, Van Amburgh, Sable Monarch, Pilot Breeder.—The extra prizes offered by Mr. John Gibbons, for the best pan of seven dissimilar blooms of the Chellaston Seedlings, were awarded, 1st pan, to Mr. Thomas Gibbons; 2nd pan, to Mr. John Staton.—The prizes for single blooms, in classes, were awarded as follow :—

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, Mr. Lakin, Magnum Bonum; 1. Mr. Lakin, Royal Sovereign; 2. Wm. Worthington, Esq. Magnum Bonum; 3. Wm. Worthington, Esq. Polyphemus; 4. Mr. Easom, Franklin's Washington; 5. Mr. Galloway, Magnum Bonum; 6. Wm. Worthington, Esq. Platoff; 7. Mr. Lakin, Surpass Catalaque; 8. Mr. Spencer, La Perfecta.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, Mr. Staton, Polyphemus; 1. Mr. T. Gibbons, Pilot Seedling; 2. Mr. Galloway, Gable's King; 3. Mr. Lakin, Captain White; 4. Mr. Staton, Rufus; 5. Mr. Spencer, Jubilee; 6. Mr. Spencer, Catalaque; 7. Wm. Worthington, Esq. Polyphemus; 8. Mr. Spencer, Lord Milton.

*Feathered Byblémens*.—Premier, Mr. Lakin, Eclipse; 1. Mr. Spencer, Lilliard; 2. Mr. J. Gibbons, Rose of Sharon; 3. Mr. T. Gibbons, Seedling; 4. Mr. J. Gibbons, Great Western; 5. Mr. Spencer, Baguet; 6. Mr. Galloway, Light Baguet; 7. Mr. Galloway, Incomparable; 8. Mr. T. Gibbons, Seedling.

*Flamed Byblémens*.—Premier, Mr. John Gibbons, Van Amburgh; 1. Mr. J. Gibbons, Criterion; 2. Mr. J. Gibbons, Grace Darling; 3. Mr. Astle, Queen Charlotte; 4. Mr. Lakin, Bienfait; 5. Mr. Spencer, La Bien Amie; 6. Mr. Spencer, Violet Wallace; 7. Mr. J. Gibbons, Incomparable le Grand; 8. Mr. Spencer, Connoisseur.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, Mr. Galloway, Triomphe Royale; 1. Mr. T. Gibbons, Compte de Vergennes; 2. Mr. Galloway, Triomphe Royale; 3. Mr. Easom, Glory of Walworth; 4. Mr. Easom, Heroine; 5. Mr. Spencer, Compte de Vergennes; 6. Mr. Easom, Lady Middleton; 7. Mr. Astle, Queen Boadicea; 8. Mr. Easom, Walworth.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, Mr. John Gibbons, Triomphe Royale; 1. Mr. Spencer, Lady Wilmot; 2. Mr. Spencer, Rose Cameliuss; 3. Mr. Staton, La Vandeyken; 4. Mr. J. Gibbons, Triomphe Royale; 5. Mr. Spencer, Sanspareil; 6. Mr. Astle, Unique; 7. Mr. J. Gibbons, Lord Hill; 8. Mr. Easom, Catherine.

*Breeders*.—Premier, Mr. T. Gibbons; 1. Mr. T. Gibbons; 2. Mr. Easom; 3. Mr. T. Gibbons; 4. Mr. J. Gibbons; 5. Mr. Lakin; 6, 7, 8. Mr. J. Gibbons.

**PANSIES**.—The 1st prize for 24 blooms was awarded to Mr. Slater, for Consolation, Prince Le Boo, Slater's York and Lancaster, Silverlock's Prince of Wales, Slater's Lady Crewe and Midland Counties, Osborne's Ibrahim Pacha, Slater's Azurea Superb, Cabinet Minister, Slater's Edward Strutt, Laura Superb, Mrs. Harcourt, Mrs. Dodwell, Marginette Superb, Sable Monarch, President, Richard Cobden, Isabella, Admirable, Prince of Wales, Curion, Pizarro, Village Maid, Beauty of Frogmore; the 2nd to Mr. Dodwell, for Baroness Wenman, Brilliant, Chater's Model of Perfection, Hooper's Mary Jane, Turner's Pitho and Optimus, Mrs. Harcourt, Blue Fringe, Excellent, Bainbow, Topaz, Constancy, Marginata, Black Bess, Nestor, Exquisite, Jewess Superb, Alba Superb, Pizarro, Candidate, Curion, and three seedlings.—1st prize for 18 blooms, to Mr. Lakin, for Cabinet Minister, Tom Pinch, Isabella La Valiere, Montem, Lilac Queen, Topaz, President, Consolation, Verax, Rainbow, Maid of Milan,



Optimus, Marginata, Haidee, Hart's Queen of Whites, Slater's Azurea Superb, and Lakin's Favourite; the 2nd to Mr. Staton, for Huntsman, La Douelle, Zelica, Favourite, Bride, Tacitus, Mountain Sylph, Prince of Orange, Mrs. Lee, Purity, Forget-me-not, Barnaby Rudge, Clansman, Dr. Jenner, Milton, Pizarro, Pioneer, and Enchanter.—1st prize for 12 blooms to Mr. Dodswell, for Pizarro, Exquisite, Brilliant, Hall's Rainbow, Cheshire Boy, Topaz, Constancy, Isabella, Marginata, Curion, Black Bess, and Seedling; 2nd to Mr. Slater, for Midland Counties, President, Curion, Cabinet Minister, York and Lancaster, Miss Fanny, Ibrahim Pacha, Marginette Superb, Prince of Wales, Isabella, Mrs. Harcourt, and Azurea Superb.—1st prize for 6 blooms, to Mr. Dodswell, for Cook's Azurea, Sulphurea Elegans, Brilliant, Constancy, Pizarro, Black Bess; 2nd to Mr. Staton, for Clansman, Mountain Sylph, Huntsman, Barnaby Rudge, Purity, Quicksilver.

The censors were Mr. Wood, editor of the *Midland Florist*; Mr. Spencer, of Adbolton; and Mr. Harpham, of Nottingham.

### TULIP SHOW,

Held at the King's Head, Barton, Lancashire, May 24.

Premier pan, J. Smithells: Sancta Sophia, Compté de Vergennes, and Atlas.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Peter Daine, Royal Sovereign; 2. John Hardman, Goud Beures; 3. Henry Daine, Waterloo; 4. H. Daine, Trafalgar; 5. Thos. Ackerly, Firebrand; 6. H. Daine, Crown Prince; 7. J. Ackerly, Catafalque; 8. J. Ackerley, Duc de Savoy.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Ackerly, Bienfait; 2. J. Ackerley, Lilliard; 3. P. Daine, Baguet; 4. H. Daine, Mango; 5. R. Berry, Unknown; 6. J. Morris, Laura; 7. R. Berry, Unknown; 8. J. Morris, Duc de Bordeaux.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Ackerly, Lady Crewe; 2. P. Daine, Lady Grey; 3. R. Berry, Compté de Vergennes; 4. P. Daine, Heroine; 5. J. Morris, Jenny Lind; 6. H. Daine, Dolittle; 7. J. Morris, Andromeda; 8. J. Hardman, Duchess of Newcastle.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Preston, Lustre; 2. J. Smithells, Liberty; 3. J. Ackerly, Charles X.; 4. J. Preston, Seedling; 5. J. Preston, Hannibal; 6. J. Hardman, Albion; 7. R. Berry, Black Prince; 8. J. Morris, Crown Prince.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Ackerly, Bienfait; 2. J. Hardman, Queen Charlotte; 3. P. Daine, Wirtemburgh; 4. J. Hardman, Angelina; 5. R. Berry, Princess Charlotte; 6. J. Hardman, Griseldine; 7. J. Clarke, Violet a Font Noir; 8. J. Ackerly, Sable Rex.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. P. Daine, Unique; 2. J. Ackerly, Grand Valeure; 3. J. Smithells, Vesta; 4. J. Preston, Seedling; 5. J. Clarke, Roi de Cerise; 6. J. Preston, Seedling; 7. J. Preston Triomphe Royale; 8. J. Morris, Lord Hill.

*Sells*.—1. C. Wych, Mine d'Or; 2. J. Smithells, White Flag; 3. M. Fogg, Mine d'Or.

*Maiden Growers*.—1. C. Wych, Trafalgar; 2. R. Berry, Bienfait; 3. R. Berry, Compté de Vergennes; 4. R. Berry, Princess Charlotte; 5. J. Clarke, Lustre; 6. J. Clarke, Rose Unique; 7. C. Wych, Unknown.

**PANSIES**.—The premier prize was awarded to James Boardman, for Thompson's Pizarro, La Vallier, and Juliana, King's Exquisite and Purple Perfection, Backhouse's Dr. Wolff, Pearson's Black Prince, Benton's Midnight, Thurtell's Jewess, Fryer's Standard of Perfection, Edmonds's Princess Alice, and a seedling.

## NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

Exchange Rooms, Wednesday, May 26.

The tulips exhibited were much better than ordinary, though they do not call for especial remark, excepting a splendid bloom of Lawrence's Friend; this fine sort was well grown by Mr. John Brown. We have not room to enumerate the various articles exhibited, but must content ourselves with those most likely to interest the majority of our readers. The judges for florists' flowers were Messrs. Lamb and Mart.

**TULIPS.**—Best twelve blooms, T. Gascoigne, Esq. for Royal Sovereign, Magnum Bonum, Polyphemus, Lord Milton, Triomphe Royale (feathered and flamed), Violet Surpassant, Incomparable, Lady Middleton, Black Bagot, Queen Charlotte, and Rose Walworth.—Second twelve blooms, Mr. John Staton, for Violet Brun, Norwich Bagot, Captain White, Seedling, Magnum Bonum, Criterion, Triomphe Royale, Sancta Sophia, Duke of Devonshire, Feathered Bienfait, Polyphemus, and Lady Wilmot.—Third twelve blooms, Mr. Harpham, for Royal Sovereign, La Perfecta, Captain White, Washington, Seedling, Duc de Savoy, Criterion, Magnum Bonum, Lady Wilmot, Triomphe Royale, Violet Surpassant, and Rose Unique.—Fourth twelve blooms, John Brown, Esq. for Magnum, Shakspeare, Bagot, Aglaia, Walworth, Queen of Sheba, Sovereign, Abercrombie, Washington, Lawrence's Friend, Triomphe Royale, and Rose Guerrien.—Fifth twelve blooms, Mr. J. F. Wood, for Triomphe Royale, Flambeau, Lilliard, Violet Alexander, Transparent Noir, Elizabeth (seedling byb.), Royal Sovereign, Sancta Sophia, Leonotus Posthumous, Princess Royal, Lady Flora Hastings, and Pilot.—Sixth twelve blooms, Rev. S. Creswell.

**PANSIES.**—Best amateur's pan of twenty blooms, Mr. J. Nevill, for Hon. Mrs. Harcourt, Hippocritas, Brilliant, Prince of Orange, and sixteen seedlings.—Best nurseryman's pan of twenty blooms, Mr. J. Staton, for Huntsman, Mrs. Lee, Bride, Tacitus, Clansman, Purity, Forget-me-not, Favourite, Tippoo Saib, Agnes, Zelica, Dr. Jenner, and eight seedlings.—Second nurseryman's pan, Mr. Joseph Gibbons, for Adonis, Magrath, Cabinet Minister, Rival Yellow, Alba Superb, Black Prince, Sobieski, Archduke, Enchantress, Margueretta, Sultan, Zelica, and eight seedlings.

**PLANTS.**—*Pelargoniums*.—Best six varieties, Messrs. Pearson, for Magog, Superb, Priory Queen, Spinneegy, Sunrise, and Superba.—Second, Mr. Edwards, for Lyne's Duke of Cornwall, Gains's Duke of Cornwall, Hebe, Wilson's Enchantress, Princess Alice, and Priory Queen.—Third, Mr. Hopewell, for Lyne's Sunrise, Foster's Matilda and Nymph, Blackford's Thunderer, King of Beauties, and Beauty of Wilts.—Six varieties (in eight-inch pots), Mr. Hopewell, for Blackford's Thunderer, Gains's Mogul, Basket's Exquisite, Northern Beauty Cyrus, and Orange Boven.—Collection, Messrs. Pearson.—Single specimens: 1. Messrs. Pearson, Sylph; 2. Mr. Hopewell, Basket's Exquisite.

## LEICESTER AMATEUR FLORISTS' SOCIETY.

The first exhibition this season, for the display of tulips, &c. was held at the New Hall, Wellington-street, Thursday, May 27th, and we have no hesitation in saying, that finer specimens of the acknowledged Queen of the Garden were never before exhibited in Leicester. Many of the metropolitan varieties, as well as the recently introduced favourites of the midland counties—the Chellaston Seedlings—were

shown both in pans and classes, and fully established their claim to superiority. A great variety of geraniums, and some most beautiful stove and greenhouse plants, including in great diversity the graceful fuchsia, and the no less elegant calceolaria, were exhibited by Messrs. Warner, Walker, and Harrison. In the non-subscribers' department we observed some splendid rhubarb (Myatt's Victoria), six sticks of which weighed 25lbs.; and also a new seedling variety, of great promise, named the Conqueror, raised by Mr. Berridge, of the Newarke, which is worthy of general cultivation.

Mr. McEwan, of Hinckley, forwarded an unique collection of tulips, including that noble variety Dickson's Duke of Devonshire, but not having given previous intimation of his wish to become a member, was unable to enter them for competition.

Mr. J. F. Wood, of the Coppice, near Nottingham (editor of the *Midland Florist*), officiated as judge, to whom was confided the general arrangement of the room, a judicious step, which, with other minor improvements, clearly indicate the earnest desire of the committee to remove every obstacle having the least injurious effect.—Subjoined are the awards.

#### AMATEURS' CLASS.

**TULIPS.**—First pan of six flowers, Mr. R. Harris, jun. for Platoff, Polyphemus, Gibbons's Princess Royal, Unknown, Aglaia, and Lady Middleton.—Second ditto, Mr. T. Galloway, for Norwich Baguet, Roi de Siam, Triomphe Royale (feathered), Magnum, Captain White, and Triomphe Royale (flamed).—Third ditto, Mr. T. Evans, for Magnum, Captain White, Norwich Baguet, Violet Perfecta, and Triomphe Royale (feathered and flamed).—Fourth ditto, Mr. R. Harris, jun. for Sir Sidney Smith, Polyphemus, Goldham's Maria, Lavinia, Mrs. Mundy, and Flora.—Fifth ditto, Mr. G. Evans, or Norwich Baguet, Roi de Siam, Triomphe Royale (feathered and flamed), Magnum, and Charbioneer.—Sixth ditto, Mr. James Cooke, for Platoff, Shakspeare, Triomphe Royale (feathered), Aglaia, Norwich Baguet, and Washington.—Seventh ditto, Mr. R. Marris, for Optimus, Sir Sidney Smith, Norwich Baguet, Superb en Noir, and Triumph Royale (feathered and flamed).—Eighth ditto, Mr. Joseph Coleman, for Hero of the Nile, Triomphe Royale, Bienfait, Surpassant and three unknown.—First pan of three, Mr. R. Harris, jun., for Captain White, Charlotte and Lamb's Rose.—Second ditto, Mr. Jas. Cooke, for Gibbons's Maid of Orleans, Dutch Catafalque, and Walworth.—Third ditto, Mr. R. Harris, jun. for Strong's King, Georgius Tertius, and Prince Ely.—Fourth ditto, Mr. R. Marris, for Captain White, Triomphe Royale, and Galloway's Incomparable.—Fifth ditto, Mr. R. Marris, for Norwich Baguet, Captain White, and Triomphe Royale.—Sixth ditto, Mr. R. Marris, for Turner's Lord Hill, Roi de Siam, and Polyphemus.—Seventh ditto, Mr. G. Evans, for Hero of the Nile, Ambassador, and Shakspeare.

#### CLASSES.

**Feathered Bizarres.**—1, Bishop of Exeter, 2, Seedling, 3, ditto, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 4, Sir Sidney Smith, Mr. James Cooke; 5, Sovereign, Mr. T. Galloway; 6, ditto, 7, Magnum, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 8, Appelles, Mr. James Cooke.

**Flamed Bizarres.**—1 and 2, Captain White, 3, Polyphemus, 4, Captain White, 5, Polyphemus, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 6 and 7, Captain White, Mr. R. Marris; 8, Strong's King, Mr. R. Harris, jun.

**Feathered Roses.**—1, Triomphe Royale, Mr. T. Galloway; 2, Compte de Vergennes, Mr. James Cooke; 3, Walworth, 4, Compte de Vergennes, 5, Walworth, 6, Seedling, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 7, Sherwood Rose, Mr. James Cooke; 8, Unknown, Rev. S. Wigg.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, Aglaia, Mr. James Cooke; 2, French Rose, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 3, La Vandycken, Mr. G. Evans; 4, Rose Unique, 5 and 6, Triomphe Royale, 7, Vesta, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 8, Vesta, Mr. James Cooke.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1, Lavinia, 2, Duc de Bordeaux, 3, Gibbons's Sir H. Pottinger, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 4, Lawrence's Friend, Mr. James Cooke; 5, Duc de Bordeaux, 6, Incomparable, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 7, Unknown, Mr. T. Coleman; 8, Ambassador, Mr. R. Harris.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, Charlotte, 2, Incomparable le Grand, 3, Gibbons's Venus, 4, Gibbons's No. 95, 5, Charlotte, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 6, Bienfait, Mr. G. Evans; 7, Unknown, Mr. R. Harris, jun.; 8, Bienfait, Mr. James Cooke.

PANSIES.—First pan, Mr. J. Coleman; second pan, Mr. W. Cox.

### TULIP SHOW,

At the Shears Inn, Lee Bridge, Halifax, May 31st.

Young growers' premium bloom, Charles X. bloomed by J. Chapman.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. G. Baildon, Duc de Savoy; 2. A. Hartley, Firebrand; 3. G. Baildon, Rector; 4. D. Asquith, Garnett's Waterloo; 5. G. Baildon, Rector; 6. D. Asquith, Sir R. Peel (seedling); 7. J. Chapman, Goud Beures; 8. Wm. Cheetham, Duke of Wellington.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. W. Cheetham, Surpasse Catafalque; 2. A. Hartley, Woolstenholme's Biz.; 3. D. Asquith, General Chasse; 4. D. Asquith, Turner's Black Prince; 5. D. Asquith, Agricola; 6. G. Baildon, Grand Cairo; 7. A. Hartley, Unknown; 8. G. Baildon, Pizarro.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. A. Hartley, Euclid; 2. G. Baildon, Bienfait; 3. J. Chapman, Mango; 4. W. Cheetham, Baguet; 5. G. Baildon, Vorhelmn's Incomparable; 6. J. Chapman, Verports; 7. W. Cheetham, Roi de Meuse; 8. D. Asquith, Valerius Publicola.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Binns, Bienfait; 2. J. Chapman, Gadsby's Magnificent; 3. J. Chapman, Violet a Font Noir; 4. A. Hartley, Czarina; 5. D. Asquith, Diana Bruin; 6. Wm. Cheetham, Grand de Lisle; 7. G. Baildon, Pourpre Superb; 8. D. Asquith, Dorothea Superfine.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Chapman, Dolittle; 2. J. Chapman, Compte de Vergennes; 3. A. Hartley, Lady Crewe; 4. G. Baildon, Heroine; 5. A. Hartley, Walworth; 6. J. Chapman, Duc de Bronte; 7. A. Hartley, Triomphe Royale; 8. A. Hartley, Reid's No. 39.


*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. Chapman, Unique; 2. D. Asquith, Strong's French Rose; 3. G. Baildon, Vesta; 4. G. Baildon, Josephine; 5. J. Binns, Reid's No. 39; 6. D. Asquith, Walworth; 7. D. Asquith, Triomphe Royale; 8. D. Asquith, Iphigena.

*Selfs*.—1. D. Asquith, Cotherstone; 2. W. Cheetham, Mine d'Or.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. D. Asquith, Black Swan; 2. D. Asquith, Buckley's Beauty.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. W. Cheetham, Polyphemus; 2. D. Asquith, Dutch Catafalque.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. W. Cheetham, Queen Boadicea; 2. J. Binns, Lady Crewe.

 Our esteemed correspondents, whose reports of shows are not inserted in this number, must bear with us until next month. The plan we have adopted is to place the shows in the order they take place. We have in hand upwards of twenty reports of exhibitions, held in different parts of the country, which shall have early attention.

## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## RAISING TULIPS FROM SEED.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

THE raising of tulips from seed has latterly engrossed much attention, and a few remarks upon my method of taking seed, as far as my own experience goes, may probably interest some of the readers of the *Midland Florist*.

It is about twelve years since I first directed my attention to the raising of tulips from seed, and during the first three years I never was able to obtain a single bulb from autumnal sowings, which have always been recommended by the writers on the tulip. I then tried the first week in January, when I was to some extent successful; but in two years I deferred sowing until the first week in February, and then I raised a greater quantity than from earlier sowings; since which time I have adopted that plan, and as a proof of success, I have this year bloomed some that were only three years old last autumn.

Much disappointment has been experienced by parties sowing seed taken indiscriminately, which rarely, if ever produce good form, &c.; as a proof of this, how many of the most celebrated breeders are worthless, being tricolors.

Every seedling invariably takes from the parent in almost every particular, and this has led me to notice what are the most likely means of producing the best results. Many florists have condemned the practice of taking seed from breeders, assigning as a reason that they never break; now I have invariably selected

them, because, much stronger and more vigorous, they produce a much larger pod of seed. I take especial care to select such only as have good form and pure bottom; and from these, last year, I bloomed no less than five varieties in a broken state, that had never previously bloomed, thus giving a contradiction to the notion that breeders raised from breeders would never break into colour.

The most important point to be considered is the parent, taking care that form and bottom be a *sine qua non*.

It is a fact that nearly all will take after the parent in the shape of bulb, foliage, &c. although crossed with some other variety. This I have experienced in every instance from seedlings, especially those I have raised from Louis XVI. which, though by accident mixed with two other varieties, can easily be selected from the others, by the bulb, when out of the ground, or by the foliage, when growing.

I have seeded principally for roses, from Duchess of Newcastle (rose breeder), crossed with such sorts as Catalina, &c.; but in some instances I find that the cup is rather inclined to be long, same as the parent, but with few of the parent's faults, as they are perfectly pure upon the stamens. If colour is wanted to be thrown in one variety, let the flower upon which the crossing is to be performed be, as before stated, of good form, that the seedlings raised may be worthy of notice.

There is another important point to be observed in the operation of crossing. As soon as you perceive a hole, which will be in a day or two after opening, about the size of a small pin head, at the top of the pericarpium, which is the ovarium, and closes as soon as impregnated (and they must be carefully watched every day, that no bee or fly may have done what you intended, but with perhaps a far different variety), and having previously selected the sorts you intend to seed from, and also those you intend to cross with, take the pollen from the anthers of the one you wish

to impregnate with, on a small camel hair pencil, and insert the pollen in the opening of the ovarium, and having provided a cap made of Nottingham cap net, tie it over the flower, so that nothing can possibly undo your work. As soon as the petals of the flower drop, place a stick, in which several nicks have been made with a saw, near the stem, and fasten the stem to the stick with metallic wire; then insert a piece of glass, about five or six inches square, into the opening made with the saw, which will protect the pericarpium from wet, which causes it to rot at the top, and the pod not to ripen.

By following these directions seed of good quality may readily be obtained, which will in time repay for the trouble.

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### PIPING PINKS.

Most writers recommend and most florists adopt the plan of cutting off the top leaves of the pipings of pinks, under the impression that, the fewer the leaves the better, in hot sunny weather. The able article "On Propagation" (from *Loudon's Magazine*), in your June number, admits that the leaves impart nourishment to the plant, and that they are best left on a cutting, in cloudy weather. Leaves perform the same office for a plant that the skin does for the human body; they are, therefore, to a certain degree, absolutely necessary. What I would advocate, both from principle and practice, is, to let the top leaves remain on the piping, instead of cutting them off, as is usually done. But perhaps some dissentient will say, *you admit the leaves are best off in sunny weather, and this we may expect at the time the operation of piping is performed.* Admitting this, for argument-sake, (though, by the by, I somewhat question whether the leaves are not best left on all cuttings, and at all times) I answer, that it cannot be much trouble

to shade them in *very* hot weather; and this is indeed recommended, when the leaves are cut off.

Now for experience. I have during the last four years adopted this plan, and the gardeners around me have envied my success; but they still continue so obstinate and prejudiced, that they will not try my system, although they fully admit that I am more certain of success than themselves. I anticipate, however, a far different treatment from the readers of the *Midland Florist*, for I doubt not but that *they* will try the experiment with impartiality, and let the public know the result, which I feel sure will be perfectly satisfactory to themselves, and in coincidence with the recommendation here given them.

Norwich, June 14, 1847.

### ON IMPROVING THE CURRANT.

I WAS glad to see your notice of currant trees grown "*en pyramide*," in your last number; and I have no doubt, if the suggestion were acted upon, that more than double the quantity of that useful and excellent fruit might be produced from a given space of land, than under the old system of *bushes*. I have for years been an extensive cultivator of currants, selling the produce in the large town in my immediate neighbourhood, and I find that though the Red Grape is a large and fleshy fruit, still it ripens unkindly, which is a great drawback to its more extended cultivation. The old Long-bunched Red is, with me, far preferable; but I see no earthly reason why this fruit might not be improved in a very great degree. Would it not be possible to raise a "*currant show*," on the principle of the Lancashire gooseberry shows? and if this could be carried out, and an inducement given to raise fresh varieties from seed, I make no doubt that we should speedily have currants double the present size, and much longer in the bunch; and I am sure that nothing would pay better than improved



varieties of both black and white, as well as red ones. The plant comes early into bearing, and any improvement on the old sorts would speedily supersede them, as the Black Naples is now displacing the Black Grape.

I heard of several new sorts, which I purchased last autumn, and am now growing them, to test their respective qualities. Of course I cannot, the first season, decide, as I should wish to have my plants well established. The sorts purchased are,

1. *The Gondouin Red*.—A continental variety, with peculiarly red wood and large foliage, very distinct in habit.
2. *The Cherry Red*.—Also from the Continent. This has extremely large foliage and stout shoots.
3. *May's Victoria*.—This, I see, has been mentioned in several publications as a large and very prolific variety, and would, doubtless, be a fine sort to save seed from.
4. *Haughton Castle (Red)*.—This was raised in the far north of England. Its character to me was *large and late*. It appears to be an erect grower, and has abundance of fruit, which is of good flavour, though, from the circumstance of the trees being planted only last autumn, are not so large as when they become established.
5. *Goliath*.—I have also received with this a first-rate character as a *good* red currant; and if any induction is to be made from its luxuriant mode of growth, I should fancy it will respond to its name.

I have selected some of the largest berries on both Goliath and May's Victoria, the seeds of which I intend to sow; and should these prove large, I will again sow from the largest. By this means, in a series of years, I hope to arrive at the height of my ambition, namely, to produce currants as large as small marbles. Now I am confident there is nothing Utopian in all this; and I am certain that if a few persevering individuals were to devote their attention to the improvement of the currant, it would be attained in less than ten years—and what a boon would this be to the holders of small gardens.

I trust you will find room for these few remarks, and hope you will second my views as far as practicable.

JOHN TOMLINSON.

## ESSAY ON THE CARNATION.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

[Continued from page 245.]

I NOW propose to lay before you my ideas, and offer a few observations on the culture of the carnation. You must, if you please, still bear in mind that I am very far from asserting that my system is the best; yet I am sure that, if followed, healthy layers and fine flowers will be produced.

In looking over the various horticultural memoranda I make during the year, I find it will be best to begin at the period when the layers are taken off, as that is the time of all others that I would recommend those wishing to commence carnation growing to lay in their stock.

We will then suppose that the layers are sufficiently rooted. Having removed the pegs which confined them in the ground, they must be carefully lifted up, for it sometimes happens that the weight of the soil attached to the roots causes them suddenly to break off, to the great disappointment of the grower; they must then be separated from the parent plant, and the stem cut back at a joint as near as possible to the root. This should be particularly observed, as the layer will very often strike again at the section. A few of the bottom leaves should be shortened, though I am no advocate for the unmerciful trimming which some people give their layers, as I imagine that the removal of leaves at this stage of their growth has a prejudicial effect on the root. Having removed the layers, they may be potted, a pair together, in pint pots. Some florists, in their prescriptions (florists give prescriptions, as well as doctors), recommend manure to be mixed with the soil for potting at this season; but as doctors differ, I also must beg leave to give my veto against this practice. The mixture I winter mine in is one-half road scrapings, one-fourth willow dust, and one-fourth turfy loam, broken and mixed up with the spade, but on no account riddled. This

is not too forcing, but will keep the layers in good health ; it being a great point in their after management not to have them of too gross a habit during winter, which the presence of manure in the soil would have a tendency to promote. The drainage of the pots must also be well attended to, and putting a small piece of moss over the potsherds will prevent the soil from mixing with them and clogging up the drainage. The pots containing the layers must be very slightly watered (but not over the foliage), and should then be placed in a cold frame for a few days, and the lights closed and shaded, that they may strike fresh root ; after which they must be gradually exposed and inured to the open air, and when convenient removed to any suitable sheltered spot, taking care that a thick layer of coal ashes, or boards are under the pots, to prevent the ingress of worms.

As carnations are by no means partial at this season to much wet, many florists erect a temporary covering with the lights belonging to their frames, and this answers the purpose very well. But the same gentleman to whom I have before alluded, and who supplied the list of the best twenty-four carnations in the west of England, built a sort of greenhouse, open at the sides and front, under which he had a stage near the glass, on which the pots were placed. In rough windy weather, in sleet or snow, or when apprehensive of a severe frost, he made a good protection of mats ; but on all other occasions they had all the weather. The result was, that his layers were healthy, the produce great, and flowers fine. I also recollect seeing lately an account of layers in France, which had been potted in strong soil, and placed in a north aspect ; they were seldom watered, and were protected from rain. They escaped in the severe winter of 1837 and 38, whilst most other collections, which had been more tenderly nursed were destroyed. I may here observe, that from being placed in a northern aspect, and having but a small quantity of moisture, the innumerable small cells or vessels contained in the stem of the layers were un-

doubtedly not overcharged with sap, as is the case with plants of a gross and robust habit, and they would thus escape the effects of severe weather; whilst on the other hand those whose sap vessels were fully distended would experience ruinous effects from the frozen sap becoming too large for their vessels or cells; a complete rupture would take place throughout the plant, and thereby cause its dissolution. As a familiar illustration, the same effects may be observed in our own gardens; for in severe frosts, when a flowerpot is filled with wet soil, and the mass becomes frozen through, the destruction of the pot is the consequence. From this it will be seen that it is imperatively necessary that they should be kept nearly dry through the winter months. My own plan, immediately after removing the layers from the closed frame before alluded to, is to place them under a slight awning, made of thin calico, stretched on a frame, about twelve feet long and three feet broad, and painted with oil and a little white lead; this is attached to a wall, so that I can put it up or down at pleasure. They remain beneath this, alike sheltered from too much sun, which is injurious at their first removal, as well as the heavy dashing autumn rains, till the approach of frost gives a hint that some further protection is necessary.

[To be continued.]

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## B E E S.

AMONGST many things, new and old, which have been recently pressed upon public attention, the management and cultivation of the bee is not an unimportant one. This subject has for many years been undeservedly neglected, but the press now teems with publications and works on the utility of this wonderful insect, and great numbers are now establishing apiaries throughout the country. As yet, the bee is not game, and no aristocratic power can limit the flight or labours of these "*chartered libertines*." In this way,

at least, the peasant can share with the peer in the riches of the floral and vegetable world ; nor is there any pursuit more humanizing, or calculated to afford more pure and unmingled pleasure than the employment of the apiarian. This year has been remarkably distinguished by a vast number of swarms in the month of May, notwithstanding a previous cold and tardy spring. This village was formerly noted for the number of its hives, and thence its name, "Bees Town," now corrupted to "Beeston ;" but it is fast recovering its lost reputation—Law has taken the apiary under its protection, Physic cherishes it, and Divinity is not ashamed of the study. It is the province of the *Midland Florist* to communicate information and instruction ; and the writer has obtained some useful designs of cottage and other hives, from Mr. G. Neighbour and Son, 127, High Holborn, and which will be forwarded to any applicant, enclosing a postage stamp.

~~heard that some had been sent to the  
I sent a box of the same to the editor.~~

#### CULTIVATION OF THE INDIAN SHOT.

Sow the seed in a mixture of three parts good fresh loam, and two of bog soil, with a portion of silver sand, in a well drained pot ; plunge the pot into a bottom heat of not less than seventy-five degrees, keeping it moderately watered, till up. When the plants are three inches high, pot them singly in three inch pots, and plunge them again, till well established with roots ; then shift them, with their balls entire, into pots two sizes larger, *well drained*, using precisely the same soil, not sifted, but moderately rubbed between the hands. Keep the plants in a nice light place in a stove, where the heat ranges from sixty-five to eighty degrees, and water carefully with water the same temperature as the house. By attending to the above directions, I have no doubt your correspondent, "Marianne," will soon be enabled to flower the Indian shot.

J. P. SUTTERTON.

**ASPARAGUS.**—Mr. Craggs, a well known and successful cultivator of this excellent vegetable, exhibited at the Horticultural Society's room, Regent-street, on the 1st of June last, one hundred heads of asparagus, which weighed 14lbs. 11oz. This was green, and nearly all eatable, and certainly was far preferable to that which has long white stems, with only a couple of inches of the top fit for food.

**LIQUID MANURE FOR CARNATIONS**, used in Flanders, where immense quantities are grown.—When the plants are well rooted, put some fresh rape cake into a tub of water, about two pounds and a quarter to as much as will well soak the soil of one hundred pots; this is to be used in the evening, and may be applied in May, and again when the flower buds just begin to show their colours. It is said in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, that this mixture gives great strength to the plant, facilitates the expansion of its flowers, and renders the colours brighter.

**FINE PLANTS AT THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, TURNHAM GREEN.**—The beautiful *Weigela rosea* has been exposed to the severity of the winter, in the open border, and has fully realized by its beauty, all that has either been said or expected of it, being equally adapted to the flower garden or conservatory. The *Glycine sinensis* covers an extent of wall measuring from sixty to seventy yards, and has been splendidly in flower this season. Also against a wall, the *Cercis siliquastrum* (The *Siliquastrum* Judas Tree) with handsome pink flowers, and the *Arbutus procera* (The Tall or Early-flowering Strawberry Tree) covered with white panicles of blooms, are both handsome. In a flower garden bounded by low walls these would be found well adapted for giving effect; they would be more in keeping with the floral beauties around them than fruit trees, which we always think out of character in such situations.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**THE DUNMORE PEAR.**—This most excellent variety was raised by the late president of the Horticultural Society, T. A. Knight, Esq. It is vigorous in its growth, and excellent in flavour; its fruit is between four and five inches in length, of an oblate form, and the colour brownish red next the sun. It is as large and good as a Brown Beurre, and from the observations made on its habits, will doubtless prove a most excellent sort for cold and late situations.

**THE GLOUT MORCEAU PEAR.**—This was introduced from the Continent, having been raised from seed by Councillor Hardenport, of Mons. The tree is hardy, a great bearer, and free in growth; the fruit is highly esteemed, being extremely rich and melting. Where a person has a south or south-east wall or paling, it would be worth while to devote it to this excellent sort. It succeeds also extremely well as an espalier. Its period of perfection is December, though in some situations it ripens earlier.

## NEW PLANTS AND SEEDLINGS.

**TROPEOLUM SPECIOSUM.** (*The Showy Nasturtium, or Indian Cress.*)—An extremely distinct and beautiful variety, with handsome foliage and scarlet flowers, which are more than an inch across. It will be a great acquisition, and was exhibited by Messrs Veitch and Son, of Exeter, at the June meeting of the Horticultural Society, where it was awarded a certificate of merit.

**GERANIUMS.**—Our readers, many of whom are cultivators of these popular flowers, will be glad to hear of those which have been successfully exhibited and their merit fairly tested. We give the names of two to which certificates of excellence have been awarded at the meeting above-mentioned:—*Beck's Favonius*—A large flower, top petals a bright rose, with large dark blotch, the under petals salmon colour, with a cherry spot on each, and having a beautiful white centre.—*Hoyle's Superlative*—Deep maroon top petals, with a narrow rim of rose, the under petals bright pink, with a white centre.

**CALCEOLARIAS.**—*Holmes's Tricolor superb*—Deep maroon spots, on a cream coloured ground, of good form, and extremely novel and beautiful.—*Holmesii*—A very large flower, cream coloured ground, spotted with light maroon.

**PINK.**—*Laura* (Wilmer's)—A flower of fine form, well laced with purple, and by no means so confused as the generality of south country pinks.

**PANSIES.**—*Potentate* (Turner)—A deep mulberry coloured flower, of much substance, round and flat, with a small centre.—*Jenny Lind* (Brown)—White ground, light purple top petals, belted with the same, good and well marked centre.—*Yellow Standard* (Lakin's)—A very beautiful yellow, of great substance, with a large and well marked black eye; an addition to this class, as there are but few really good yellows.

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## NEW AND GOOD HARDY TREES, SHRUBS, ETC.

AMONGST the trees in our nursery which we consider rare, we have an *Ailanthus glandulosa*, with beautifully variegated foliage. The plant is about six feet high. We first noticed it in 1846, and imagined that



it would again revert to its green state. This season, however, it has put forth its singular foliage, which is most distinctly and beautifully margined with yellow. As the *Ailanthus* is a most ornamental tree, should the "*sport*" prove permanent, it will be a valuable addition to our collections.

**CRATÆGUS PUNICEA FLORE PLENO.** (*Double Pink Hawthorn.*)—One of the most lovely trees imaginable. Whoever has space for a plant, or a hedge in which it could be budded or grafted, should most certainly become possessed of it. We have had it this spring literally covered with flowers, and it has excited the admiration of all who have seen it.

**RHODODENDRON CAUCASICUM PICTUM.**—This beautiful variety of hardy evergreen shrub we saw at the nursery of Messrs. Cunningham and Orr, Hulme, Manchester. It is of compact habit, with fine foliage, and perfectly hardy, for while they have suffered enormous loss in the destruction of their fine collection of hybrid rhododendrons, by the severity of the past winter, this sort has stood exposed and unharmed. The flowers are produced in great profusion, forming very large heads; they are pure white, thickly spotted with a beautiful bright crimson. It is a most desirable plant.

**RHODODENDRON JAVANICUM.**—A very beautiful new species, lately introduced from the mountains of Java; it was exhibited on the 1st of June, at the rooms of the Horticultural Society, and a large silver medal was awarded for it. Its foliage is remarkably handsome, and the flowers, which are orange red, are extremely brilliant.

#### GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**CALCEOLARIA.**—*Richard Cobden*—This is a flower of fine properties, most singularly and thickly spotted with dark brown, on yellow. It was raised in the

vicinity of Manchester. The stock has been purchased by Mr. Wm. Lodge, and we make no doubt it will be held in high estimation.

**AZALEA CATLEUGHII.**—A variety of excellent form and colour.

**PELARGONIUM.**—*Jenny Lind.*—A very fine fancy variety, exhibited at the Horticultural Society's rooms, and for which a certificate was awarded.

### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

Certificates were awarded by the judges, at the Royal South London Floricultural Society, to the undermentioned flowers; and from their ability and well known impartiality, we should have much confidence in purchasing them, with their recommendation:—

**GERANIUMS.**—*Conway's Prince of Wales*—A fine scarlet, a move in the right way, of a most brilliant colour, and large compact heads of flowers.—*Miller's Rosa*—A flower of excellent properties, and is certainly most promising.

**TULIPS.**—*Scarnell's Corinna*—A fine high coloured flamed rose, pure, and having several excellent points.—*Diadem*—This is a rich flamed bizarre, a second row flower, of good form; the flame is a dense mixture of brilliant scarlet and black, upon a fine yellow ground, the colour of the feather, which is heavy, being the same; the bottom, unfortunately, is very slightly stained, owing in part to the colours running to the pericarp. It is a variety which requires careful cultivation in order to see it in its finest character, although, in all its stages, it is an exceedingly fine tulip. It broke from the breeder in 1844.—*President*—Breaks apparently from the same breeder as *Diadem*, for amongst a dozen there was no perceptible difference, unless it might be in some being

of a clearer yellow than others, and the petals somewhat stiffer. It breaks into the purest yellow cup, of the very finest form, the petals stiff and leathery, and slightly obtuse at the upper part. It is a most excellent feathered bizarre, and broke into colour for the first time this season, 1847.

**BRAGG'S MRS. BRAGG PANSY.**—A yellow ground flower of much excellence, striking and novel in character.

**FOWLE'S EXQUISITE FUCHSIA.**—Considered by the judges to have some fine properties, and worthy of this mark of their approbation.

**CINERARIA.**—*Ivery's Beauty of Peckham*—A white ground flower, well formed petals, deeply edged with rosy crimson, very pretty.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



### SIX FINELY SHAPED ROSES.

As form is pre-eminently requisite, we extract the following from *Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide*. We have grown them, and certainly they are most beautiful:—

1. *Triumphe de Jansens*.—A variety of *Rosa Gallica*; colour rich and brilliant crimson, flowers very double and full sized.
2. *Kean*.—Of the same family as the above; colour nearly scarlet, flowers elegantly cupped; a most beautiful rose.
3. *Coupe de Hebe*.—A hybrid Bourbon rose; colour a delicate rose, often shaded with pink; a vigorous growing and superb kind.
4. *La Volupté*.—A hybrid Provins; colour deep rose; large, very double, and of the most perfect cupped form.
5. *Rose Devigne*.—A hybrid Provins; colour delicate pink; very beautiful.

6. *Boula de Nantieu*.—A variety of *Rosa Gallica*, now a very popular rose, and deservedly so; colour crimson purple, flowers very large and double, cupped when first open, afterwards the centre of the flower rises, and it partially loses its cupped form.
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### PROPERTIES OF A FINE RANUNCULUS.

WE are quite sure that no one knows better than Messrs. Tyso and Son what constitutes perfection in this beautiful flower; but we never heard them assume to themselves a greater degree of knowledge than their brother florists, neither do we suppose that they have pirated the properties from some one else; but of this we are sure, that they have raised many splendid flowers, and that they are good growers, which their success at the exhibitions of the London Horticultural Society amply testify; and we would rather record the opinions of practical men, like Messrs. Tyso, than those of mere theorists, who, by bombast and impudence, often, *for a season*, cast better men into the shade. We give their definition of a good flower.

1st. *The stem* should be strong, straight, from eight to twelve inches in height, and capable of supporting a large blossom.

2nd. *In shape* the blossom should resemble half a globe, with petals having entire, well rounded edges, termed rose-leaved. The bottom, or guard petals, should be large, and the others gradually diminishing in size as they rise towards the centre of the flower, which should be well filled with them. The tiers of petals should not be so numerous as to hide the marking on their edges.

3rd. *Size*.—From two to three inches in diameter.

4th. *Colour*.—Anything clear, rich, and brilliant, either consisting of one colour, as dark, white, crimson, yellow, &c.; or bicoloured, as edged, spotted, mottled, or striped with purple, crimson, &c. on distinct grounds.

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### CULTURE OF THE MUSHROOM.

THE mushroom house is generally a back shed, containing tiers of shelves, and heated by a flue, or hot water pipes, with the means of giving light and ventilation. I have seen various methods of preparing the

beds practised, but that I am about to describe, I consider the most economical, with regard to the dung, and producing a more regular supply of mushrooms from a given amount of material. In this case, as in the out-door practice, the preparing of the material is of the greatest consequence. The higher the horses are fed the better; the droppings, with a sprinkling of litter, should be collected from the stables daily, and laid out or spread in an open shed, but only allowed to heat slightly, and turned over carefully until the whole is somewhat dryish from having been freely exposed to the air. When a sufficient quantity is procured to form a bed, let it be proceeded with in the following manner:—Three inches of the droppings having been laid over the bottom, it must be well forced down with a mallet, or, what is more expeditious, a heavy flat board, having two handles to work it with: when six inches in depth is formed in this way, the dung for the remaining two or three inches to be put on should have incorporated with it, say a fourth part of thoroughly decomposed turfy loam, which has been passed through a sieve; this will give a better body, and will likewise, in a greater degree tend to arrest the escape of those elastic gasses which are so essential to the cementing of the whole into a uniform mass, a state of things so conducive to the successful cultivation of the mushroom. However, the depth of the beds must depend on the state of the material; should the fermenting principle have previously been much diminished, a greater body will be required, and conversely in the same rate; if prepared as recommended above, eight or nine inches will be found to be quite sufficient. I consider it one of the greatest evils in mushroom growing, to allow the beds to heat violently; after such a circumstance, the beds will seldom be found to do much good, as the essential qualities of the soil will have been destroyed, and that mild and durable combustion so necessary to the running of the spawn, lost—a thorough decomposition rapidly taking place. Allowing the bed to have been properly finished, well firmed down eight or nine

inches deep, and producing a kindly heat; when the latter is upon the decline, the same principles upon which the out-door practice was based must likewise be acted upon here. The bed being beaten over again, when the heat is found moderate, it should be spawned with pieces not quite so large as before, somewhat closer together, and from an inch to a couple of inches below the surface. The soiling should not take place till all danger from overheating is past, but care must be taken that it be done in time to secure a sufficiency of heat for warming the soil through, the slighter the better, so as it is just perceptible; this will likewise be enough to give a kind of flush through the whole material of the bed. The soil should consist of decomposed turfy loam of a strongish texture, and in a medium state of moisture; put on two inches in thickness, well beaten down and smoothed, which will finish the bed. As regards the temperature of the house, from fifty to sixty degrees will be found a good range; but, whatever be the heat, it is important that the hygrometrical state be corresponding; and we should not forget the most favourable atmospheric conditions, in their natural locality—that of hazy still weather—preventing the radiation of heat and moisture; therefore the advantage of slightly covering the beds. Where a difficulty is found in keeping up the desired state of moisture, in watering the beds, care must be taken that the temperature of the water corresponds with that in which the mushrooms are placed, and a slight sprinkling should only be given at a time with a fine rose or syringe: better to give more frequently, than too much at a time. Under such a course of culture, mushrooms may be expected in the course of six weeks; and I have seen such beds continue in bearing from six to twelve weeks: however, it is always safest to keep a good succession of beds at work. The atmosphere of the house should be kept pure and wholesome by change of air, and the house altogether clean and neatly arranged.

THOMAS ELLIOTT.

## Part III.

## REVIEWS.

THE GARDENER'S (SIXTH) MONTHLY VOLUME. *Baldwin, Paternoster-row, London; H. Woolridge. High-street, Winchester, &c.*

THE PINE APPLE, ITS CULTURE, USES, AND HISTORY. —Now the enjoyment of this excellent fruit is within the means of most people, from the quantity imported from the West Indies, some information relative to its habits, &c. will, we are sure, be interesting to the public. Every one who has of late years seen the various horticultural publications, must be familiar with the name of Mr. Barnes, gardener to Lady Rolle, Bicton, one of the most successful cultivators of the pine in Great Britain; and his name will be a sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the work. We have looked it through with much pleasure, and have marked several parts for future extract.

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THE CULTIVATION OF EARLY POTATOES IN THE OPEN AIR, WITHOUT ARTIFICIAL HEAT. By J. Cuthill.

JUST now the question, "Will the disease again attack the potato?" is of intense interest; and this little work is of great importance. We shall give the concluding paragraph of the pamphlet, at the same time recommending its serious perusal by all who are interested (and who is not?) in the question. Mr. Cuthill says,

"In conclusion, no one can wonder that I have a strong liking for this most valuable plant; it has proved a good friend to me; and although I may lose part of my income by publishing the above method of managing the potatoe (which I can ill afford, having but one acre of ground), yet I part with it with pleasure, in the hope that it will be for the general benefit, and will not in the end injure myself."

## QUERIES.

May I inquire of yourself, or some one of your numerous correspondents, if the seed gathered from the *run* carnation, whether fertilized by its own or the farina of some *clean* flower, will produce clean varieties? I am aware this could be set at rest by a few trials, but perhaps you may have already proved it. You will much oblige me by answering this query in your next.

ALEXANDER.

What is the tulip tree? I often see it mentioned in books. Pray inform me what it is like, and whether it really does bear tulips.

I. P.

I have had for several years a *Bignonia radicans* planted on a wall, with a south-eastern aspect. Its growth is most luxuriant, but it has never flowered. Will some of your ingenious correspondents inform me how I can get it to bloom? Would root-pruning have a beneficial effect?

RECTOR.

Can you account for the *black* currant trees being attacked so severely with the *honey fall*, in this neighbourhood, whilst the red ones are free from the scourge? Perhaps you can favour me with the probable causes of the *honey fall*, and a remedy for the same.

T. B. S.

Will you be pleased, in your next number, to state in what manner Mr. Hall's currant trees were trained, so as to take up less space and give a greater produce, which you so favourably noticed? It is not named to what substance the branches are fastened, as I presume they will require some support.—Will a compost heap formed of any refuse, such as weeds, grass, cabbage stumps, rabbit manure, straw, and earth, the decomposition accelerated by soap suds being thrown over it, be fit to use at the end of autumn? I rather suspect it will not be ripe or rotten enough in so short a space of time. I shall feel obliged by your opinion.—Do gooseberry and currant bushes require root-pruning in autumn? Some I have grow very luxuriantly, but bear little or no fruit. I believe they are very old. J. W.

I understand that in the neighbourhood of Nottingham you have a most excellent plain pink, called Purity, which I see has been winning at several exhibitions. Where is it to be obtained, and at what price?

I. S.

[We can only answer the above question thus far, Purity is the best black and white pink grown. We think it would be hardly fair to give the price and the whereabouts also. Our readers must bear in mind that all florists, nurserymen, &c. can advertise with us at a cheap rate; and it is our intention shortly to make arrangements much to the advantage of those possessing new plants, &c. by taking one-half of the amount for advertising in the article advertised, whether plants, trees, shrubs, or any thing else thus made public.]



I am most anxious to grow a few good Cape heaths; I imagine they may now be procured at a reasonable rate. A reply in your next, stating the names and colours of twelve or twenty good varieties, will greatly oblige yours,  
H. SMALLEY.

I have a pea which is wholly without the interior thin skin, as in other varieties, will you, in your next number, inform me whether it is a new variety or not?  
B.

Will you be so kind as to give me the names of six of the best flavoured gooseberries you are acquainted with, and oblige  
A READER AND ADMIRER OF THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

[The Yellow Champagne, Rumbullion, Pitmaston Green Gage, Whitesmith, Keen's Seedling, and the Raspberry.—EDITOR.]

I have this season seen a splendid feathered bizarre tulip, called Dickson's Duke of Devonshire; can you inform me whether originated from seed at London or Manchester, and whether raised or only broken from the breeder by the person whose name is attached to it?  
ONE WHO LOVES A TULIP.

[We shall be obliged to our florist readers to answer this question for us. We suppose it was broken by Mr. Dickson, of Brixton, Surrey.]

What are the names of some of the best yellow picotees? I am glad to see that you advocate their exhibition; and I make no doubt that (as you assert) the breed will soon be improved, when encouragement is given to so beautiful a class.  
DIANTHUS.

I should be glad if you would give the names of six of the best sorts of cabbage.  
A POOR GARDENER.

[Our poor querist shall have our best advice. Nonpareil, Enfield Market, Stones's Superb Sprothorough, Reynolds's ditto, Noble's Superb Dwarf, and British Queen.]

I have heard that a seedling grape has been raised on the Continent, which bears berries as large as the Green Gage plum, and is also extremely luscious, and arrives at maturity very early. Do you know any thing about it, and can you say whether my information is correct?

*Birmingham.*

HENRY SIMPSON:

Being much gratified with your extremely practical and useful work, I have taken the liberty to ask the names of a dozen plants suitable for rockwork. I should be glad if you could name them in your August number, and you will have the thanks of  
E. M.

[Twelve hardy plants well adapted for this purpose are, Sedum Kamschatka, Sedum Seboldii, Iberis sempervirens, Veronica alpestris, Thymus azureus, Phlox verna cœrulescens, Phlox procumbens, Campanula cæspitosa, Campanula hederifolia, Allysium saxatile, and Oenothera taraxifolia.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**TULIPS.**—In answer to your Norwich correspondent, I would observe, that the best essays we have on the culture of tulips will be found in the first volume of the *Gardener and Practical Florist*, published in 1843, by Groombridge; and in the twenty-ninth part of the *Horticultural Magazine*, published by Houlston and Stoneman; although some of the instructions given are by no means judicious.—The best descriptive catalogues are one in the tenth part of the *Horticultural Magazine*, and one by Mr. Slater, of Cheetham-hill, Manchester; Orr and Co. publishers.—A good practical treatise on the cultivation of the tulip, based on sound principles and an accurate knowledge of its elementary constituents, is much wanted; and though the descriptive catalogues above-named are good as far as they go, they are very imperfect, and contain no mention of many tulips which are deservedly popular. In the course of a little time, I doubt not, the *Midland Florist* will supply these defects.

Warrington.

G. W. HARDY.

It has been asserted, and with some degree of truth, that amongst mankind there are but two classes, "the *humbugging* and the *humbugged*," and I fear by some one of the former your friend H. J. H. may have been imposed upon, when he was taught to expect the common daffodil (whose period of blooming is so much earlier) to emerge from the root of the narcissus, however long or much neglected it may have been; and it cannot be more so, I think, than when left, as is usual with it, to bloom in large patches of crowded small roots, closely matted together, in the borders of the kitchen garden, by the side of some hard and gravelly footpath, and amongst the roots of some equally neglected gooseberry bush. And where, I would ask, will you find the gardener or florist, however curious in remarking novelties, who ever found the daffodil in such a situation, unless previously inserted there to deceive? If this is not humbug with a vengeance, I never met with it. Wishing every success to your favourite and useful little work, I am, Sir, yours truly,

Tyneside, June 24.

ALEXANDER.

**APPLES, PEARS, AND PLUMS BEST ADAPTED FOR SMALL GARDENS**, in reply to I. R.—*Plums*—Green Gage, Orleans, Ickworth Imperatrice, Fellemborg, Dove Bank, Huling's Superb. *Pears*—Dunmore, Monarch (Knight's), Althorpe Cressan, Maria Louisa, Hessel.—*Apples*—Ribstone Pippin, Spencer's Favourite, Sturmere Pippin, Christie's Pippin, Pike's Pearmain, Lord Lennox, Court pendu plat or Wollaton Pippin.

**W. P. S.**—The Dwarf Prolific Nut was not raised at the Chilwell nurseries; it was originated from seed at Newark, Notts. from a nut said to have been brought home by one of the parties who accompanied the late Major Cartwright to the coast of Labrador. The seed could not, however, have been ripened in that inhospitable region, but probably was obtained at some one of the ports, on their return home. It appears that the plant showed fruit the third year, and the founder of the Chilwell nurseries having heard of its excellent quality, went to Newark, and offered the raiser a handsome sum for the plant. This he refused, but ultimately agreed with Mr. Pearson that he should have the layers yearly, at one shilling each. For a series of years Mr. P. went over, and took the crop of layers, from which he propagated an immense quantity; and by him it was termed "Pearson's Prolific Nut," a name which, for its excellent qualities and great produce, it well deserves.

**A. SUBSCRIBER, Nottingham.**—If the wall wants hiding there is nothing better than ivy, or the Virginian creeper. The smoke, even in an open part of the town, is very deleterious to vegetation.

**I. W., Liverpool.**—*M'Intosh's Practical Gardener and Modern Horticulturist*. The other query next month.

**HOMO** will find in the present number some information he requires. His queries shall be answered in full, next month.

**I. P. DUDLEY** will find his query answered this month.

**TYRO, Hyde.**—The plants alluded to will be about the same price, and at that time of the year would come cheapest by water or luggage train. Allow the head of the stock to remain on.

**R. W. M.**—**TWENTY-FOUR FINE EVERGREENS.**—*The Alaternus* (*Rhamnus Alaternus*).—Of this hardy shrub there are several varieties; perhaps the most handsome is the Gold-striped. In rich black soil, this sort is apt to come green, but in strong soil and exposed situations, it is one of the most beautiful plants we know. It will attain a considerable height.

*Arborvitæ* (*Thuja*).—The Chinese is a most desirable sort, though apt to be injured in very severe winters. The Tartarian is much harder than the preceding, upright in growth, and very ornamental.

*The Strawberry Tree* (*Arbutus*).—The red-flowering variety is one of the most beautiful shrubs grown; and ought, with the *Unedo* (which is of similar growth, with white flowers), to be in every collection. In favourable summers they will bear their fruit so far north as Nottingham, but in the south of England, Ireland, and more favoured climes, they every season produce them in profusion.

*The Arbutus mucronata*.—A shrub of quite a different character to the foregoing, of low growth and small, with thick dark green foliage; it is well adapted for small beds, or the front of shrubberies, and is extremely pretty.

*The Japan Aucuba* (*Aucuba Japonica*).—A well known and beautifully variegated evergreen, adapted for the vicinity of towns, as it appears to withstand the effects of smoke, &c. which is so deleterious to other plants.

*The Holly-leaved Berberry* (*Berberis aquifolia*).—A most beautiful shrub, which, from its bearing great quantities of seed, is now to be easily obtained. Its *ashlike*, evergreen, shining leaves are very ornamental, and when in bloom, its large trusses of yellow flowers render it peculiarly striking. It does not attain a great height and is suitable for small gardens.

*The Sweet-fruited Berberry* (*Berberis dulcis*).—Also a great favourite; its long and slender branches are covered with dark green boxlike leaves, its flowers are produced singly, from almost every bud, and hang down like small orange-coloured bells; both it and the preceding variety bloom early in the season.

*Minorca Box* (*Buxus Balearicus*).—A handsome shrub, with broad foliage; a good addition to our evergreens.

*The Deodara Cedar*.—This magnificent evergreen tree ought to be most extensively grown; whoever admires the Cedar of Lebanon (and who does not?) will welcome this denizen of the Himalaya Mountains, Upper India. Its branches are beautifully pendulous. The Earl of Harrington, of Elvaston Castle, is by far the most extensive planter of this tree in the neighbourhood.

*The Evergreen Cypress* (*Cupressus sempervirens*).—An upright slender tree, well adapted for cemeteries; and is not unaptly compared to a large green feather, from its light and elegant appearance.

*The Garland Flower* (*Daphne cneorum*).—This is beautiful alike in its prostrate habit, and sweet scented, bright pink flowers, which are very numerous produced. No garden should be without it. There is also a variety with the foliage finely variegated.

*The Holly* (*Ilex*).—There are now many beautiful varieties of this fine evergreen, all of which should be where the collection is intended to include every thing really good. We may mention as fine and easily attainable, the Minorca Holly, which is strong growing and erect, with large and beautiful dark green foliage; and the Deep Orange-striped, the best of the variegated sorts, and a general favourite.

*The Chinese Juniper* (*Juniperus Chinensis*) —A most graceful plant, its branches assuming a pendulous character; its foliage is more diversified than others of its family, which renders it extremely interesting.

*The Tamarisk-leaved Juniper* (*Juniperus Tamariscifolia*).—This is rather prostrate in its habit, but is an extremely fine evergreen.

*The Laurestinus* (*Viburnum tinus*).—An old inhabitant of our gardens, whose face, though familiar, is nevertheless welcome; blooming in the early spring months, it is, and always will be, highly esteemed.

*The Large-flowering Magnolia* (*Magnolia grandiflora*).—A noble evergreen, requiring in the midland counties the protection of a wall, which it richly merits. Its fine globular flowers have a striking appearance.

*The Oak* (*Quercus*).—There are many beautiful varieties of this fine tree. We may mention as suitable for the background of shrubberies, or to stand singly on lawns, the Fulham Oak and Turner's Evergreen, which attain considerable size.

*The Rose Bay, or Rhododendron*.—We must refer R. W. M. to the descriptive list of new sorts, suitable for "the Midlands," at page 190. To these he may add the more common though beautiful varieties, *R. rosea*, *R. maximum*, *R. catawbiense*, *R. daurica*, and *R. ponticum*, which should form a part of every collection.

*The Yew* (*Taxus bacata*).—The Upright Irish, and the Gold-striped are most interesting and beautiful. And to this list we must add

*The Common and Portugal Laurels*, without which no shrubbery would be complete.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR AUGUST.



PREPARATIONS must now be made for getting in the Tripoli, Strasbourg, or other *onions*. Ground that has been cleared of early *peas* or *cauliflowers* will be well adapted for the beds.

A crop of late *peas* may be sown; and for this purpose, and at this season, the Ringwood Marrow will probably prove the best.

*Cucumbers*, in the open ground, must be attended to; going over them occasionally, and pegging down and regulating all straggling shoots.

Towards the end of the month get in some seed of early *cauliflower*; sow thickly, and transplant as soon as ready.

The same may be said of *lettuces*. The best for standing the winter are the Brown Dutch and Hardy Green, though we prefer the Black-seeded Bath Coss Lettuce, which is a most excellent

sort. *Cabbage seed* should also be sown immediately. Gather *herbs* for drying, at every convenient opportunity.

In the fruit garden, new *strawberry beds* may be made, towards the middle and latter end of the month. Keen's Seedling is still a general favourite, and for late cropping nothing is better than the Elton Pine; Myatt's British Queen is the best of the large sorts, and attains a very great size.

When late *currants* are required, the bushes must be shaded with mats. A variety called Haughton Castle, appears to have the desirable property of hanging long on the tree, in perfection.

If summer pruning espalier and wall fruit trees has not been already done, let it be accomplished forthwith, by removing the breast wood, or foreright shoots. *Currant trees* should also have their shoots pinched back, which will stay over luxuriance and induce fertility.

*Florists' Flowers*.—Continue to lay *carnations* as fast as possible. There is no point of greater importance than to get the layers well rooted, and potted off in good time, so that they may be well established before winter. Impregnate the blossoms where seed is required, taking care always to save from those which have the best properties. Never try to obtain seed from *picotees* with rough or serrated edges. Matthews's Enchantress, and Brinkler's Purple Perfection would be fine purple-edged varieties to cross-breed from.

Plant out *pink pipings*, and make fresh beds for next season's blooming; they usually lace best when established in autumn.

*Tulip seed* should now be gathered and hung up in a dry place, in order that the capsule may become thoroughly dry.

*Pansy beds* also should be attended to, new ones made, and side-cuttings struck, under hand-glasses, in the shade.

*Auriculas* must be kept free from weeds and filth of every description.

Put in *geranium cuttings*, on the open border; they will strike freely, without being covered with hand-glasses, and any one can propagate a favourite variety which he may happen to possess, with the greatest ease.

Bud *roses* at every favourable opportunity. In hot weather it is better performed in the evening; but showery seasons are the best.

*Cherries, plums, apples, pears, &c.* also may be budded. Rub off the shoots, which are apt to grow fast, on the stocks of *standard roses*; also from those trees which have been grafted in the spring.

Sow biennials, such as *scabiouses, Brompton and Queen stocks, Canterbury bells, mignonette, &c.*

*Chrysanthemums* may be also layered, by pegging down the shoots in pots; they will speedily root, and may then be removed and potted in larger pots, with rich soil, and will thus make bushy dwarf plants, which will bloom abundantly through the autumn.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

## TULIP SHOW.

Held at the house of Mr. Wm. Clegg, Golden Ball and Florist Hotel, Mill-gate, Stockport, May 27th.

Premier prize (silver cup), Mr. John Hart, Charles X.

Maiden prize (kettle), Mr. Samuel Clark, Bienfait.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. Joseph Sawyer (kettle), Bienfait; 2. Mr. John Hart, Baguet; 3. Mr. George Holland, Grotius; 4. Mr. John Hart, Ambassador; 5. Mr. Thomas Clegg, Buckley's Beauty; 6. Mr. John Hart, Lancashire Hero; 7. Mr. George Holland, Eclipse; 8. Mr. John Hart, Violet Winner.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Mr. William Lambert, (kettle), Charles X.; 2. Mr. John Morris, Trafalgar; 3. John Bramall, Magnum Bonum; 4. Mr. John Hart, Rising Sun; 5. Mr. Thomas Potts, Seedling; 6. Mr. John Bramall, Surpass Catafalque; 7. Mr. John Bailey, Duc de Savoy; 8. Mr. Wm. Lambert, San Joe.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. Samuel Clark (kettle), Compte de Vergennes; 2. Mr. John Bailey, Duc de Bronte; 3. Mr. John Bramall, Lady Crewe; 4. Mr. John Bailey, Doolittle; 5. Mr. Levi Huzzey, Heroine; 6. Mr. John Robinson, Newcastle; 7. Mr. John Hart, Rosa Blanca; 8. Mr. Edmund Carter, Unknown.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. John Bramall (kettle), Csarina; 2. Mr. John Bramall, Lord Vernon; 3. Mr. John Morris, Baguet; 4. Mr. John Hart, Incomparable; 5. Mr. John Hart, Pyramid; 6. Mr. John Hart, Violet Walkers; 7. Mr. Edmund Carter, Bienfait; 8. John Hart, Naylor's British Hero.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Thomas Clegg (kettle), Polyphemus; 2. Mr. Levi Huzzey, Albion; 3. Mr. John Hart, Lustre; 4. Mr. Thomas Clegg, Black Prince; 5. Mr. John Bramall, Wright's 63; 6. Mr. Thomas Potts, Flamed De Gard; 7. Mr. George Holland, Charles X.; 8. Mr. John Bramall, Magnifique.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. Mr. Thomas Clegg, Unique; 2. Mr. John Hart, Rose Vesta; 3. Mr. James Earle, Triomphe Royale; 4. Mr. John Bramall, Aglaia; 5. Mr. John Robinson, La Vandycken; 6. Mr. William Lambert, Compte de Vergennes; 7. Mr. Samuel Clark, Lady Crewe; 8. Mr. Edmund Carter, Newcastle.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. Mr. John Bramall, Louis XVI.; 2. Mr. John Morris, Baguet; 3. Mr. Levi Huzzey, Buckley's Beauty.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. Mr. John Bramall, Sunbeam; 2. Mr. John Morris, Polyphemus; 3. Mr. John Morris, Surpass Catafalque.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. Mr. John Hart, Gibbons Seedling; 2. Mr. James Earle, Newcastle; 3. Mr. John Bailey, Lady Crewe.

*Selfs*.—1. Mr. Levi Huzzey, White Flag; 1. Mr. John Robinson, Min d'Or.

## OLD FLORIST'S SOCIETY, NORWICH,

Wednesday, May 26.

First pan of three Feathered Blooms, Mr. Henry Mackley, for Platoff, Grotius, and Gloria Walworth; 2nd ditto, Mr. Edmund Chaplin, for Lord Derby, La Belle Narine, Duchess of Newcastle; 3rd ditto, Mr. Robert Seeley, for Surpass Catafalque Ambassador de Holland, Mart's Best Rose.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Mr. E. Chaplin, Apples; 2. ditto, Newington Beauty; 3. Mr. Henry Mackley, Turner's Black Prince; 4. Mr. Thomas More, Surpass Catafalque; 5. Mr. John Randall, Rising Sun; 6. Mr. Jeremiah Howes, Trafalgar; 7. E. Chaplin, Firebrand; 8. Mr. H. Mackley, Crown Prince.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. John Randall, Black Baguet; 2. Mr. Jeremiah Howes, Grotius; 3. Mr. William Gowing, Ambassador de Holland; 4. E. Chaplin, Angelina; 5. E. Chaplin, Goddess of Violets; 6. H. Mackley, Roi de Prussia; 7. Mr. Gowing, Maitre Partoute; 8. Mr. Seeley, Queen of Holland.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. John Randall, Doolittle; 2. Mr. W. Gowing, Triomphe Royale; 3. E. Chaplin, Walworth; 4. R. Seeley, Rosa Blanca; 5. J. Howes, Monsieur Pitt; 6. William Weyer, Georgius Tertius; 7. William Warr, Thunderbolt; 8. William Warr, Rose Mundi.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Mr. E. Chaplin, Polyphemus; 2. W. Gowing, Charbonnier; 3. W. Gowing, Platoff; 4. R. Seeley, Davey's Bolivia; 5. H. Mackley, Rising Sun; 6. James Marshall, Howlet's Catafalque; 7. H. Mackley, Newington Beauty; 8. J. Howes, Seedling.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. W. Gowring, Roi de Siam; 2. J. Howes, Seedling; 3. R. Seeley, Maitre Partoute; 4. E. Chaplin, Violet Wallers; 5. E. Chaplin, Demoche; 6. E. Chaplin, Violet Alexander; 7. E. Chaplin, Sable Rex; 8. William Warr, Grand Cid.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. Mr. W. Gowring, Rose Subjection; 2. Mr. E. Chaplin, La Vandychen; 3. Mr. E. Chaplin, Rose Sisygambus; 4. Mr. E. Chaplin, Vesta; 5. R. Seeley, Lambert's Best Rose; 6. R. Seeley, Triomphe Royale; 7. J. Randall, Lady Wilmot; 8. W. Gowring, Perfait.

## TULIP SHOW,

At the Jolly Potters, Longton, Staffordshire, May 29.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, E. Paulson, Royal Sovereign; 1. E. Paulson, Trafalgar; 2. T. Cooper, Grafmaurits; 3. E. Paulson, Duc de Savoy; 4. J. Salt, Firebrand; 5. J. Salt, Pope's Catafalque.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, J. Salt, Unknown; 1. A. Shaw, Polyphemus; 2. E. Paulson, Phoenix; 3. W. Emony, S. Lacantique; 4. E. Paulson, Grafmaurits; 5. J. Tams, Lacantique.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—Premier, J. Bridgwood, Bienfait; 1. J. Salt, Unknown; 2. E. Paulson, Unknown; 3. A. Shaw, Rien d'Egypt; 4. H. Newbon, Lady Barbara; 5. A. Shaw, Sable Rex.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—Premier, J. Salt, Violet Wallers; 1. J. Bridgwood, May Queen; 2. A. Shaw, Zwertabberd; 3. A. Shaw, La Belle Narine; 4. A. Shaw, Grotius; 5. J. Tams, Ambassador.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, A. Shaw, Baguet; 1. W. Emony, Comte de Vergennes; 2. J. Salt, Duc de Bronte; 3. A. Shaw, Lady Crewe; 4. A. Shaw, Hero of the Nile; 5. A. Shaw, Rien Miranda.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, A. Shaw, Rose Aglaia; 1. E. Paulson, Rose Guerrier; 2. J. Bridgwood, Rose Unique; 3. E. Paulson, La Vandychen; 4. T. Cooper, Lord Hill; 5. A. Shaw, Walworth.

*Breeders*.—1. A. Shaw, Boadicæ; 2. A. Shaw, Byblæmen; 3. J. Bridgwood, Bizarre.

*Selfs*.—1. T. Cooper, Min d'Or; 1. E. Paulson, White Flag.

The judges were Mr. David Brown, of Newcastle, and Mr. Edward Oxley, of Longton.

## ROYTON FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

In the National School-room, June 2d.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Ashton, Firebrand; 2. J. Smithies, Surpass Catafalque; 3. W. Bentley, Magnum Bonum; 4. W. Bentley, Charles X.; 5. J. Ashton, Crown Prince; 6. J. Heap, Duc de Savoy; 7. J. Ashton, Charbonnier; 8. J. Ashton, Unknown.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. W. Bentley, Bienfait; 2. W. Bentley, Surpassant; 3. W. Bentley, Duc de Bordeaux; 4. J. Heap, Washington; 5. J. Holt, Captain Flash; 6. J. Moston, Mango; 7. J. Taylor, Lancashire Hero; 8. W. Bentley, Catherina.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. L. Fox, Dolittle; 2. B. Hilton, Walworth; 3. L. Ashmole, Lady Crewe; 4. W. Bentley, Heroine; 5. J. Heap, Newcastle; 6. T. Smith, Duc de Bronte; 7. J. Heap, Hero of the Nile; 8. John Smithies, Seedling.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. W. Bentley, San Joe; 2. L. Ashmole, Albion; 3. J. Ashton, Polyphemus; 4. B. Hilton, Duke of Leeds; 5. J. Taylor, Charles X.; 6. B. Hilton, Liberty; 7. L. Fox, Black Prince; 8. L. Fox, Surpass la Cantique.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Smithies, Violet Wallers; 2. L. Ashmole, Incomparable; 3. John Holt, Diana; 4. L. Ashmole, Bienfait; 5. L. Ashmole, Sable Rex; 6. J. Smithies, Fond Noir; 7. J. Taylor, Charlotte; 8. L. Ashmole, Czarina.



*Flamed Roses*.—1. L. Ashmole, Unique; 2. L. Ashmole, La Vandeyken; 3. J. Taylor, Vesta; 4. L. Ashmole, Lord Hill; 5. L. Ashmole, Triomphe Royale; 6. J. Heap, Rose Guerrier; 7. L. Ashmole, Aglaia; 8. J. Smithies, Fairy Queen.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. L. Ashmole, Captain Slay; 2. W. Bentley, Polyphemus; 3. L. Ashmole, Unknown; 4. J. Holt, Unknown.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. L. Ashmole, Britannia; 2. W. Bentley, Glory; 3. J. Smithies, Maid of Orleans; 4. J. Taylor, Catherina.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. B. Hilton, Glaphra; 2. L. Ashmole, Lady Crewe; 3. L. Ashmole, Newcastle; 4. J. Holt, Cardine.

*Selfs*.—1. W. Taylor, Min d'Or; 1. J. Holt, White Flag.

The judges were Mr. J. Marsden, Middleton; Mr. J. Jackes, Middleton; and Mr. J. Dalton, Oldham. There was nothing particularly worth remarking, except an excellent feathered Catherina, broke from the breeder this season, by John Taylor, of Chadderton; which will, when plentiful, take an early place in its class.

### OLD ORIGINAL TULIP SHOW,

At Mr. S. Cock's, Botanical Tavern, Ashton-under-Lyne, June 2.

The judges were Mr. John Slater, Cheetham-hill; Mr. W. Allsop, Stockport; and Mr. J. Crompton, Oldham; who awarded the prizes as follows:—

*Maiden Prizes*.—1. G. Mellor, Esq. Sir Sidney Smith; 2. S. Cock, sen., Newcastle; 3. J. Haigh, Surpass Catafalque; 4. J. Hilton, Trafalgar; 5. H. Cowburn, Baguet.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, J. Massey, Charles X.; 1. S. Shawcross, Sidney Smith; 2. T. Leech, Firebrand; 3. J. Moss, Surpass Catafalque; 4. R. Taylor, Old Lacantique; 5. S. Stopford, Duke of Hamilton; 6. S. Ardern, Duc de Savoy; 7. W. Wooller, Wellington.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, S. Stopford, Polyphemus; 1. W. Matley, Lustre; 2. W. Matley, Charbonnier; 3. S. Ardern, Albion; 4. T. Leech, Charles X.; 5. J. Moss, Surpass Lacantique; 6. S. Cock, sen., Unknown; 7. W. Matley, Rufus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—Premier, T. Leech, Baguet; 1. W. Matley, Bienfait; 2. S. Cock, Haigh's Violet Amiable; 3. J. Wilde, Catherina; 4. J. Wild, Grotius; 5. R. Taylor, Mango; 6. W. Matley, La Belle Narene; 7. S. Stopford, Sportsman.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—Premier, G. Scholes, Incomparable; 1. W. Chadwick, Bienfait; 2. T. Leech, Violet Wallers; 3. J. Massey, Gadsby's Magnificent; 4. T. Leech, Bacchus; 5. W. Chadwick, Pyramid of Egypt; 6. J. Wilde, Alexander Magnus; 7. T. Leech, Roi de Siam.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, B. Haigh, Heroine; 1. S. Stopford, Lady Crewe; 2. S. Cock, sen., Newcastle; 3. J. Massey, Walworth; 4. B. Haigh, Compte; 5. J. Moss, Hero of the Nile; 6. T. Leech, Dolittle; 7. W. Chadwick, Lady Ashley.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, W. Matley, Rose Vesta; 1. B. Haigh, Triomphe Royale; 2. B. Haigh, Aglaia; 3. J. Massey, Newcastle; 4. S. Cock, Rose Unique; 5. J. Wilde, Guerrier; 6. T. Leech, Lord Hill; 7. T. Leech, Lady Crewe.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Massey, Min d'Or; 1. J. Moss, White Flag.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. S. Stopford, Polyphemus; 2. J. Haigh, Beauty of Dovedale; 3. G. Scholes, Antagonist; 4. G. Scholes, Rival; 5. W. Matley, Duke of Hamilton; 6. T. Leech, Charbonnier.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. W. Matley, Princess Royal; 2. W. Wooller, Lord Vernon; 3. J. Massey, Seedling; 4. J. Haigh, Beauty; 5. J. Massey, Seedling; 6. J. Massey, Deception.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. W. Matley, Haigh's Lady Grey; 2. W. Matley, Lady Sale; 3. B. Haigh, Lady Crewe; 4. R. Taylor, Newcastle; 5. S. Cock, Glaphra; 6. G. Scholes, Seedling.

### THE LEEDS CENTRAL FLORAL SOCIETY

Held their annual exhibition of Tulips, at the house of Mr. William Dobbings, Golden Cock Inn, Kirk-gate, Leeds, Wednesday, June 2. The following is the list of prizes awarded:—

Premier prize, J. Bramma, Compte Platoff.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Bramma, Compte Platoff; 2. E. Mitchell, Magnum Bonum; 3. J. Bramma, Polyphemus; 4. J. Stephenson, Duc de Lancaster; 5. J. Stephenson, Sovereign; 6. J. Mattinson, Leopoldina.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. E. Mitchell, Polyphemus; 2. E. Mitchell, Pompey's Pillar; 3. J. Mattinson, Lord Brougham; 4. J. Bramma, Chas. X.; 5. E. Mitchell, Catafalque Superior; 6. J. Bramma, Rurus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Bramma, Black Baguet; 2. J. Bramma, Sir E. Knatchbull; 3. J. Smith, Ambassador; 4. E. Mitchell, Buckley's Beauty; 5. J. Mattinson, Violet Alexander; 6. J. Mattinson, Mango.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Smith, David; 2. J. Bramma, Voorhelm's Incomparable; 3. J. Bramma, Prince Elie; 4. J. Bramma, Eveque de Amboise; 5. J. Bramma, La Belle Narene; 6. J. Smith, Dunstan.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Bramma, Lady Middleton; 2. E. Mitchell, Heroine; 3. J. Mattinson, Duchess of Newcastle; 4. E. Mitchell, Lady Crewe; 5. J. Stephenson, Compte de Vergennes; 6. J. Bramma, La Belle Nanette.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. E. Mitchell, Triomphe Royale; 2. J. Smith, Rose Aglaia; 3. J. Stephenson, Navarino; 4. J. Stephenson, Reed's No. 39; 5. J. Bramma, Rose Unique; 6. J. Bramma, Lord Hill.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Bramma, Roi Min d'Or; 2. J. Stephenson, White Flag; 3. E. Mitchell, Mirabella; 4. J. Bramma, Cotherstone; 5. J. Smith, Sovereign; 6. J. Smith, Golden Hero.

*Breeders*.—1. J. Bramma, Maid of Orleans; 2. E. Mitchell, Duchess of Newcastle; 3. J. Bramma, Polyphemus; 4. J. Bramma, Earl of Derby; 5. J. Bramma, Buckley's Beauty; 6. J. Bramma, Lady Middleton.

### TULIP SHOW,

At Mr. J. Cropper's, Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Halifax, June 3.

Premier prize, J. Hepworth, Spring Gardens, Brighton, Waterloo.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Hepworth, Magnum Bonum; 2. J. Hinscliff, Surpass Catafalque; 3. J. Hepworth, Waterloo; 4. J. Hinscliff, Trafalgar; 5. J. Rushworth, Charles, X.; 6. J. Sutcliffe, Goud Beurs; 7. J. Sutcliffe, Duc de Savoy; 8. J. Sutcliffe, Crown Prince.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Hinscliff, Bienfait; 2. J. Hepworth, David; 3. J. Hinscliff, Lewald; 4. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 5. J. Sutcliffe, Maitre Partoute; 6. J. Hepworth, Ambassador de Holland; 7. J. Sutcliffe, Corney's Seedling; 8. G. Baildon, Voorhelm's Incomparable.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Hepworth, Polyphemus; 2. J. Hepworth, Charles X.; 3. J. Hepworth, Thomas Brown; 4. J. Hepworth, Shakspeare; 5. A. Hartley, Surpass Catafalque; 6. J. Rushworth, Albion; 7. J. Rushworth, Dutch Catafalque; 8. J. Sutcliffe, Rector.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Rushworth, Grand Cid; 2. J. Rushworth, Roi de Siam; 3. J. Hepworth, La Belle Narene; 4. J. Hinscliff, Seedling; 5. J. Hinscliff, Rubens; 6. J. Hepworth, Bacchus; 7. J. Hepworth, Lysander Noir; 8. J. Rushworth, Cassandra.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Hepworth, Duchess of Newcastle; 2. J. Hinscliff, Lady Middleton; 3. J. Hinscliff, Comte de Vergennes; 4. J. Hepworth, Heroine; 5. J. Hinscliff, Walworth; 6. J. Hinscliff, Triomphe Royale; 7. J. Sutcliff, Duc de Bronte; 8. J. Sutcliff, Gaystella.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. Rushworth, Vesta; 2. J. Hinscliff, Triomphe Royale; 3. J. Hepworth, Aglaia; 4. J. Hepworth, Unique; 5. J. Hinscliff, Comte de Vergennes; 6. J. Hinscliff, Ely, No. 26; 7. J. Rushworth, Roi de Cerise; 8. J. Hinscliff, Queen Victoria.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Sutcliff, Min d'Or; 2. D. Asquith, Cotherstone; 3. D. Asquith, Lord Morpeth; 4. J. Hinscliff, (white) Albert Seedling.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 2. J. Hinscliff, Princess Royal; 3. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 4. J. Hepworth, Queen of the North.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 2. J. Hinscliff, Captain Heath; 3. J. Rushworth, Polyphemus; 4. J. Hinscliff, Pilot.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 2. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 3. J. Hepworth, Seedling; 4. J. Hepworth, Seedling.

### FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS & HORTICULTURISTS.

The members of the Felton Union of Florists and Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of tulips, pansies, and vegetables, on Thursday, the 3rd of June, at the Widdrington Arms Inn, Felton, when the prizes were awarded as follow:—

*TULIPS*.—*Rose*—1st and 4th prizes to Mr. Wm. Scott, Felton, for Triomphe Royale and Rose Amadis; 2nd to John Grahamsley, Esq. Felton, for Duchess of Clarence; 3rd and 6th to Mr. T. Dawson, of Acklington, for Brulante Eclatante and Lilas Rose; 5th to Mr. A. Gowens, Felton, for Rose Primo.—*Byblæmen*—1st prize to J. Thompson, Esq. Morpeth, for Black Baguet; 2nd to Mr. A. Gowens, for Roi de Siam; 3rd and 4th to Mr. Wm. Scott, for Perle Blanche and Bienfait; 5th to Mr. T. Dawson, for Violet Imperial; 6th to Mr. R. Richardson, Felton, for a fine feathered Washington.—*Bizarre*—1st prize to J. Grahamsley, Esq. for Old Catafalque; 2nd and 3rd to Mr. A. Gowens, for Polyphemus and Demetrius; 4th to Mr. Wm. Harrison, Felton Bridge End, for Harrison's Sir Hugh Gough (a break of last year); 5th to Mr. W. Scott, for Prince Albert; 6th to Mr. A. Gowens, for Catafalque Superior.

*PANSIES*.—1st prize to Mr. J. Crossling, gardener to Thos. Riddeff, Esq., Felton Park, for the best stand of six varieties, consisting of Crossling's Blue Ribbon, Miss Bullock, Crossling's Miss Theresa Riddell, Pizarro, Goliath, and Crossling's Miss Prettyman; 2nd to Mr. A. Gowens, for Pizarro, Jewess, Arethusa, Prince of Wales, Thompson's Queen of the Yellows, and Peter Dick; 3rd to Mr. Crossling, for Success, Isabella, Optimus, Blue Ribbon, Miss Bullock, and a Seedling.

*AMATEURS' VEGETABLES*.—Best three stems of rhubarb (Myatt's Victoria), Mr. Mack; 2nd (the Giant), Mr. W. Scott; 3rd, Mr. Mack, Felton.—Best two cabbages, Mr. Jas. Rochester, Felton; 2nd and 3rd, Mr. Thomas Jeffrey.

Extra prizes were awarded to Mr. Jas. Rochester, for gooseberries, and to Mr. Melrose, for onions.

Upon the whole the table of tulips was very good, although this unfortunate spring and winter have been very unfavourable for the cultivation of this favourite flower, and have cast many of the leading exhibitors quite into the shade. The pansies were also very attractive, and the seedlings of Mr. Crossling seem likely to be in great request, and to drive many of the much lauded southern sorts quite out of the field. They were much admired here and also at Morpeth, on the following Saturday.

## TULIP SHOW,

At the house of Mr. James Pownall, Daybrook Inn, Hursdfield-road, Cheshire, on the 5th of June.

Premier prize (silver cup), Mr. J. Davenport, for the best pan of six flowers, viz., Duke de Savoy, Bienfait, Triomphe Royale, Lustre de Beauty, Vœrlm, Unique.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Shone, Pownall's Bizarre; 2. J. Nunnerley, Charles X.; 3. T. Pownall, Surpass Catafalque; 4. J. Barnshaw, Spencer's Grand Duke; 5. J. Shone, Crown Prince; 6. J. Davenport, Chance Fine; 7. J. Davenport, Barclay's Rufus; 8. J. Barclay, Turner's Black Edge.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Davenport, Bienfait; 2. J. Barnshaw, Bienfait; 3. J. Davenport, La Belle Narene; 4. J. Davenport, Washington; 5. J. Nunnerley, Baguet; 6. J. Shone, Fond Noir; 7. J. Shone, Duke de Bordeaux; 8. J. Sharpley, Violet Wallers.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Walmsley, Comte de Vergennes; 2. J. Sharpley, Lady Crewe; 3. J. Davenport, Captain Bayley; 4. J. Walmsley, Dolittle; 5. J. Barnshaw, Comte de Vergennes; 6. J. Davenport, Triomphe Royale; 7. J. Davenport, Hero of the Nile; 8. J. Barnshaw, La Belle Narene.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Davenport, Lustre de Beauty; 2. J. Davenport, Polyphemus; 3. J. Davenport, Phoenix; 4. J. Davenport, Unknown; 5. Barnshaw, Marre's Dutchman; 6. J. Barnshaw, Charles X.; 7. J. Barnshaw, Lustre; 8. J. Shone, Flamed de Guerre.

*Flamed Byblæmen*.—1. J. Sharpley, La Belle Narene; 2. J. Davenport, La Belle Narene; 3. J. Walmsley, Black Knight; 4. T. Pownall, Magnificent; 5. J. Shone, Apollo; 6. J. Shone, Sable Rex; 7. J. Shone, Duchess of Davensdale; 8. J. Walmsley, Pyramid of Egypt.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. Shone, Unique; 2. J. Sharpley, Lady Crewe; 3. J. Nunnerley, Vesta; 4. J. Davenport, Unique; 5. J. Shone, Matilda; 6. J. Barnshaw, Aglai; 7. J. Walmsley, Vulcan; 8. J. Davenport, Triomphe Royale.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Davenport, Sunbeam; 2. J. Davenport, Seedling; 3. J. Shone, Catafalque.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Nunnerley, Jephtha; 2. J. Davenport, Unknown; 3. J. Davenport, Unknown.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Sharpley, Duchess of Newcastle; 2. J. Walmsley, Glaphra; 3. J. Shone, Reuben.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Davenport, White Flag; 1. J. Sharpley, Min d'Or.

## THE OXFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Held their second meeting at the Town-hall, on the 5th of June. We give the tulips, as placed by the judges.

Collection.—1. Mr. W. Collcutt, Oxford with Platoff, Baguet, Addison, Rose Blanca, Triomphe Royale, Diana, Ceres Blanca, Aristides, Wellington, Lewald, Captain White, and a seedling.—2. R. H. Betteridge, Esq. Milton Hall.

Nine.—1. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Washington, Platoff, Lady Exeter, Gloria Mundii, Ambassador de Holland, Comte de Vergennes, Claudiana, French Rose, Polyphemus.—2. Mr. W. Collcutt, Compe de Vergennes, Bolivia, Baguet, Lewald, Glory of Abingdon, Rose Blanca, Diana, Triomphe Royale, and a seedling.—3. Mr. A. Lane, West Wycombe, with Holmes's King, Captain White, Aspasia, Junius Brutus, Bijou d'Amateur, Alcon Violet Quarto, Triomphe Royale, Surpass Polyphemus.—4. Mr. J. West.—5. Mr. H. A. Collcutt, Oxford.—6. Mr. H. Bell, Woolvescott.

Seedling (Prince Albert), Mr. West, Dorchester.

## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## DESCRIPTIVE REMARKS

ON A FEW OF THE BEST

## RANUNCULUSES GROWN IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

BY MR. WILLIAM HARRISON, SECRETARY TO THE FELTON UNION  
OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

As the blooms of this favourite flower are now fast disappearing from our beds once more, I beg to hand you the following descriptive remarks on a few of the best varieties in cultivation in this part of the country; if you think them worthy of a place in the *Midland Florist*, I shall be glad to see them inserted in an early number of that very useful work, to which I wish every prosperity. I have carefully abstained from mentioning any variety that I have not either grown myself or seen in the possession of one of my friends; and therefore I trust the following remarks on the colours and properties of the varieties mentioned will be found tolerably correct. I shall begin with the

## SELFS.

1. *Nabat*.—A fine red, never gets very large, but always a fine shape, and a highly desirable self.
2. *Condorcet*.—A fine black flower, seldom getting very large; but a beautiful high crowned self, and always winning.
3. *Craiggy's Miss Liddell*.—A very fine large flesh-coloured self, the colour sometimes a little suffused with a shade of buff, but a very fine flower, approaching nearly to a complete ball, and very desirable.
4. *Tyso's Grand Romana*.—A large strong growing red variety, well filled up in the centre, and a very useful self, if exhibited before it gets open and shows the pericarpium.

5. *Admiral Keppel*.—A very beautiful purple flower, growing to a good size.
6. *Admiral Howe*.—A sort of olive colour; but the lower parts of the petals are very white, which detracts much from the value of this variety as a self for competition.
7. *Naxara*.—A very fine dark flower.
8. *Fête Nocturne*.—A beautiful rosy purple colour, but the petals rather heart-shaped.
9. *Orange Brabancon*.—A good useful orange flower.
10. *Theodine*.—A well shaped red flower, which ought to be carefully shaded, as it soon fades.
11. *Tyso's Dictator*.—A very magnificent rich golden yellow; one of the finest selfs grown, and ought to be in every bed.
12. *Tyso's Laureate*.—Another splendid yellow.
13. *Tyso's Pindar*.—A pale flesh-coloured self, but a finely shaped and distinct variety.
14. *Tyso's Saladin*.—Another finely-shaped yellow ground variety, sometimes a little spotted on the edges of the petals, but in either class it is always fine.
15. *Variat*.—Another fine dark self.
16. *Quaker Lady*.—A good shaped buff flower, well worth growing. Grown in the south under the name of Cox's Buff.
17. *Cleopatra*.—A slaty grey colour, peculiar, but useful.
18. *King Otho*.—A well shaped good red flower.
19. *St. Jerome*.—A pale blush.
20. *Tyso's Hermon*.—A good white, large and fine.
21. *Model of Perfection*.—A useful yellow.
22. *Duke of Bedford*.—Good crimson.
23. *Bouquet Sanspareil*.—Good dark olive.
24. *Voctonoæ*.—Dark crimson.

#### VARIEGATED.

1. *Neilson's Queen Adelaide*.—This is a very beautiful variety indeed; straw ground, with a distinct spot on the edge of the petals, and attains about two inches and a half in diameter, when well grown. It is quite a *gem* to those who are fond of buff grounds.
2. *Neilson's Mrs. Neilson*.—This is another truly beautiful variety, the ground colour pure white, finely edged with brilliant red or scarlet. It reaches two inches in diameter when well grown, and must be considered a decided acquisition by every ranunculus fancier, although it does not rise so high in the crown as some of the other varieties.
3. *Neilson's British Queen*.—Somewhat similar to Queen Adelaide, and very beautiful.
4. *Neilson's Eliza*.—Beautiful white ground, spotted, but soon opens out quite hollow, and is of little use for competition.
5. *Tyso's Champion*.—A fine large flower, with a white ground and purple edge: an excellent sort.

6. *Tyso's Cathcart*.—Another fine white ground variety, with a rosy brown edging, heaviest in the middle of the petals, which gives it a very striking and attractive appearance. It is a high crowned and beautifully shaped flower.
7. *Tyso's Attractor*.—Another fine white ground variety, with a heavy rosy purple edging.
8. *Kilgour's Queen Victoria*.—Pale buff ground, bleaching nearly white, with a delicate rosy purple edge; quite a first-rate variety.
9. *Lightbody's Victor Hugo*.—A beautiful white ground variety, with a delicate rosy freckle on the edge of the petals. The most delicately edged variety that I know of, and very pretty.
10. *La Singulier*.—An old favourite, but a lovely gem yet; the ground pure white, with a fine scarlet edge. It is still a formidable competitor.
11. *Melange des Beauties*.—Another old favourite; yellow and red striped, finely formed, and well known.
12. *Scarlet and Gold Stripe*.—This is better than the last variety, and stands in bloom a long time. It also grows to a larger size, and is quite a model in shape.
13. *Aust's Wonder*.—Faint yellow ground, with a dark edge; a good flower, and much circulated in the north under the name of Don Pedro.
14. *Tyso's Edgar*.—A very beautiful flower, with a rich yellow ground and dark coffee edging. It attains a good size, is always beautifully crowned, and is one of the finest, if not the finest, yellow ground varieties in cultivation.
15. *Burns*.—A fine pure white ground and dark purple edge; a well shaped and beautiful flower; indeed it is one of the very best purple edges we have, and stands in bloom a long time, a great advantage.
16. *Shakspeare*.—Gets to a good size and shape, but the white ground is not very pure; the spotting, however, renders it distinct and beautiful.
17. *Tyso's Amasis*.—Palish yellow, with a faint spot on the edges of the petals; a well formed and distinct variety.
18. *Tyso's Delectis*.—Another very grand flower, with a fine rich yellow ground colour, and dark coffee edging, something after the fashion of Edgar; but the edge is rather heavier in this variety, which is one of the loveliest gems in cultivation.
19. *Tyso's Felix*.—Pale buff ground, spotted on the edge, but it opens too soon in the centre to be of much use as a show flower.
20. *Tyso's Flaminus*.—A beautiful yellow ground variety, with dark or spotted edges; one of the sweetest things I have ever grown.
21. *Tyso's Herbert*.—Another fine yellow ground, with reddish edge; a beautiful flower, but rather thinner than some of the foregoing.
22. *Tyso's Jubal*.—A reddish crimson flower, with a black edging.

23. *Tyso's Jovin*.—A beautiful high crowned white ground, faintly spotted on the edges.
24. *Prince de Galatzin*.—A large yellow, with fine red edge, but rather flat.
25. *Prince Frederick*.—A good red and yellow striped flower.
26. *Princess Charlotte*.—A pretty old flower; white ground finely pencilled with scarlet.
27. *Suprema*.—A finely shaped old variety; white ground and dark edge.
28. *Thompson's Seedling*.—A very good flower indeed; rather creamy ground colour, and fine dark edge.
29. *Pourpre Panache*.—White ground and fine purple edge.
30. *Duchess of Buccleugh*.—Rather buff ground and dark edge.
31. *Grand Berger*.—Lightish yellow or straw ground, and dark blood red edge. A good useful old flower, but very soon falls.
32. *Antiquary*.—Yellow ground and heavy brown edge. Singular.
33. *Constantia*.—Yellow ground, and fine brown edging.
34. *Lightbody's Commodore Napier*.—A fine light yellow ground variety, with a fine dark edge and first-rate shape. A very superior variety indeed.
35. *Lightbody's Splendour*.—Fine white ground and rosy spot. Very pretty.
36. *Lightbody's Quintilian*.—Extra fine white ground, prettily spotted.
37. *Neptune*.—Pale yellow and dark edge.
38. *Herodotus*.—Buff, and edged; an extra fine and delicate looking variety.
39. *Tyso's Virginia*.—Pure white ground, with dark rosy edge; an extra fine sort.
40. *Triton*.—Buff ground and purple mottle; extra fine.
41. *General Gibbs*.—Pale yellow, and dark edge.

Having trespassed so long on your space, I shall close this article for the present; and if it suit your pages, I may perhaps resume the subject at some future time.

*Felton, Northumberland, July 12.*

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## ON PERFECTION OF FORM IN THE TULIP.

BY BRIH.

As Mr. Hardy, in his admirable articles upon this subject, has brought before the floral world all the recognised authorities who have written upon this



much agitated question, and with praiseworthy minuteness examined their different theories, I shall endeavour, as briefly as possible, to add a few criticisms, leaving it to your readers to form their own opinions as to the truthfulness of my observations. Too much has already been written upon this theme, without leading to any practical result; the views stated have generally been of an ideal nature, and do not convey clearly what should constitute the standard of perfection. The *pansy*, the *auricula*, and the *dahlia* are easily judged, as standards have been approved of; but excepting agreeing as to the depth of cup in the tulip, all are at variance. Take for instance a circle, divide it, and examine whether this is perfection: the first peculiarity observable is what is termed want of shoulder. This is apparent in the Rose Claudinna; the outline wants what I shall term support; the flower, or rather the petals, rise too abruptly from the stem. Examine Salvator Rosa, with its thick massive petals, and fine bottom, combined with great breadth; put Claudinna beside it, and all comparison is at an end. Take Clark's Musidora for depth of cup, which is about the half-circle; or Brown's Hamlet, which is a model of itself; and for junction of the petals, which are so close as to seem entirely one, we have Godet Parfait.

Now, Mr. Editor, we shall, for supposition, say you have a meeting, next bloom, either at Derby, Manchester, or any where else, and that a circular is issued, inviting florists to meet and appoint a committee, to fix a practical standard—I would have the flowers already mentioned placed before them, their merits calmly discussed, and the properties finally settled; let a competent artist (say Mr. Wakeling), be present, and instructed to draw a model; have it engraved, and distributed as the acknowledged *standard of perfection for the tulip*.

In the above remarks, I have avoided all reference to marking or colour. Taste varies in localities as well as individuals. I would merely give an observa-

tion upon colour. In a feather or flame, black should be preferred; second, dark purple, or violet; third, light purple, or violet; fourth, brown, or what is termed an incomparable colour. In bizarres, black first, red second, and brown third. In roses, the brightest scarlet to win, and so on as the shades deepen.

To constitute a first class tulip, it is well known the stamens should be perfectly pure; the anthers also must not be overlooked, as they must be of a size to correspond with the flower, and perfectly black—not small and of a snuffy brown colour, as we see in most of the baguet tribe.

I long to see this question of *form* settled, not theoretically but practically. The fancy would have a vigorous impetus given in the advance; no longer should we be disciples of any school, or new theory, but all would act in harmony, where all are at variance. I now close these crude and imperfect remarks, and humbly place them before your readers.

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## ESSAY ON THE CARNATION.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

[Continued from page 276.]

For my own part, I think that many layers are annually lost by over kindness; being made more susceptible of cold by the nursing and stewing they get in frames; and where Mr. Bucknall's plan can be followed, for wintering them under a glass roof with open sides, I most certainly would recommend it.

But for those who either cannot or will not be at the expense of such an erection, the old system of protection must suffice. They must, therefore, choose a north aspect for their frames, and put a thick layer of coal-ashes on the bottom, on which rows of bricks are laid, sufficiently far apart, that the pots may stand just touching each other: the frame must be tilted at

bottom, to admit a free current of air, which it is desirable to obtain as long as possible. Brick pits or frames, which are decidedly preferable, should have square apertures, both before and behind, with a sliding panel or door, as in rainy weather, when the lights are down, a circulation could not be obtained; and on this I would lay great stress, for being kept too close engenders mildew, and too often ruins a whole stock. I have tried the plan, and found it answer, of plunging my pots in barley chaff; this keeps the roots from too great extremes, occasioned by the action of the air on the pots; it is also an excellent preservative from frost, and completely sets the inroads of snails and worms at defiance. The only objection to its use was, that sparrows would get into the frame, and in their search for corn scatter the awns over the tops of the pots, and they lodged between the leaves.

While in their winter quarters, attention must be paid to taking off the lights on every opportunity, and drawing them over again on the appearance of rain. In fact, it must be borne in mind that abundance of air, without unnecessary exposure to cutting winds, is essentially requisite for the health of the layers.

During the time they are in the frames, the soils or compost in which they are to be flowered, should be well looked after. The heaps should be often turned, and especially in frosty weather, when a vigilant look-out must be kept for the brandling or wire-worm.

The compost I would recommend is two barrowful of good rotten turf, well broken with the spade; two barrowful of very rotten horse-manure, from a melon or cucumber bed; one barrowful of either rotten leaves, sticks, or thatch; and one barrowful of wash-sand from a road side.

All this should be well mixed and repeatedly turned, so that the incorporation may be complete. The turf ought, every bit of it, to go through the hand, and the lumps be pulled to pieces, to detect the hidden

foe ; and though only one brandling may be found, still you may consider yourself amply repaid for your trouble. The soil having been well turned, about a fortnight before the time of planting the layers out, which is generally about the latter end of March, sometimes sooner or later, according to the season, I put plenty of drainage in the pots, and fill them to the rim with the compost, which will then subside before I plant ; and, in order that the soil may be perfectly clear, or to make assurance doubly sure, I insert pieces of carrot and slices of potatoes, to entrap any grubs or insects which may have before escaped. But a more certain way than this has lately been adopted by an old friend of mine ; he puts about two pecks of soil at a time into his side-oven, and, after subjecting it to a heat destructive to vitality, whether in the shape of worms or eggs, he removes it, and subjects another parcel to the same process, till he has sufficient for his use ; and, in this part of the country, where side-ovens constitute the principal feature in the cottager's fire-gate, and where, of course, there is a constant and abundant heat, a great deal can be effectually cleaned with no other expense than the trouble. All this may to some growers appear needless, and a trouble which the difference will not repay ; but it is punctuality and care in small matters, attending to the minutæ of the thing, which very often enable the grower of fifty pairs to beat the careless cultivator of five hundred, and at the same time prevent the loss and mortification of seeing layer after layer of some favourite sort go in rapid succession. If this then can be prevented, I think it will be acknowledged that no trouble is too great that will accomplish it.

I now come to the planting of the layers out in the pots, supposing that the soil is cleared of destructive insects. They should be set a pair in each, and the pots ought not to be less than half-pecks. A horn-beam, or other hedge, having a south or south-east exposure, will be found most suitable for them. A

wall ought to be as much as possible avoided ; such a situation will be found extremely prejudicial, being so liable to draughts and eddies. After having been planted a short time, the sticks may be inserted in the pots, for if delayed, it is very probable the roots may be injured.

As the layers grow, or spindle, as it is usually termed, they must be carefully tied up to the sticks with soft worsted, or fastened with Rowland's metallic wire. After they have grown about a foot high, a top-dressing of very rotten cow manure will be found beneficial ; and as the weather gets warmer, they must be carefully watered, the soil in the pot never being allowed to get thoroughly dry. As the buds appear, and you have decided which to remove, they may be reduced in number, and the laterals, or side buds also taken away, that all the energies of the plants may be directed towards those that remain, which will increase their size, if intended for exhibition. The number of these should be regulated according to the strength of the plants ; some think that three flowers are enough for each layer to bring to perfection, but five, I think, is generally about the mark. We understand that many cultivators reduce to *one*, when intended for exhibition.

The buds and plants are now subject to the attacks of various insects. The cuckoo spit is one of them, and is easily seen and removed. The green fly is more common and troublesome, but may easily be got rid of by using a small bag of Indian rubber, similar to the one here exhibited ; this being filled with Scotch snuff, the buds must be examined very early in the morning, or immediately after rain ; the insects will then generally be found clustered together, and a puff or two of snuff destroys them effectually. This application of snuff may be repeated now and then, even should no insect be perceptible, as it will prevent the attack of another annoyance, whose presence is not so easily detected ; I allude to a small black insect, which inserts itself, as the flower

begins to open, beneath the calyx, or green outside covering, and feeds on the coloured parts of the petals, so as to completely disfigure the flower when it expands. When buds burst it is evident that there is negligence in the management, and, in order to prevent this, thread, rubbed with bees' wax, is put round several times, and the ends merely twisted; as the buds increase in size, these are untwisted and slackened. Some people use sheep's bladder, cut into narrow strips and wetted, which causes it to stick fast; but this does not allow for the swelling of the flower, so that I am inclined to think the bees'-waxed thread the preferable tie.

[To be continued.]



### THE DERBY ARBORETUM.

PAYING a visit to the Derby arboretum, some time ago, I was greatly pleased with the beautiful and healthy state of the trees and shrubs generally, as well as the excellent keeping in which the grass and walks appeared to be maintained. There appears to me to be several defects, which I have not only observed here, but likewise in the cemetery at Nottingham, and which I feel persuaded is at variance with good taste, and perhaps only requires to be pointed out to be remedied. I allude to the circular rings which are cut in the turf, round the various trees and shrubs. It will be said that this is requisite, in order that the surface may be neatly mown; but I maintain, that whatever grass escaped the scythe, might easily be cut away with a pair of sheep shears; and the trees and shrubs would then appear in a more natural state, which it is most desirable should be kept up in an arboretum.

I would then ask, what are the loose stones intended for, at the right hand of the main walk, proceeding from the entrance? They appear as if they had been

tumbled out of a cart, and there had not been time to arrange them. If intended for rock-work, they are a burlesque on Derbyshire. The sooner such unsightly objects are removed the better, and something worthy of the place constructed, which should add to its embellishment, and at the same time serve as a model to parties desirous of erecting something of the kind; and I feel sure that abundance of stone might be easily procured from Matlock and adjoining places, which would be forwarded by public spirited individuals, for so praiseworthy an object. These remarks are made with perfect good feeling, my only object being to enforce right principles.

H. S. M.

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## Part II.

### NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

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#### HARDY CLIMBING PLANTS.

**CLEMATIS TUBULOSA.**—A native of the north of China, bearing spikes of most elegant blue flowers; the foliage also is extremely pretty. Its season of blooming is the autumn, and it will doubtless prove a great acquisition.

**CAPRIFOLIUM SEMPERVIRENS, VAR BROWNII.**—This beautiful variety of honeysuckle was raised at the Slough Nurseries, near Windsor, some years ago, and is a remarkably distinct sort, in shape somewhat like the common Long-blowing or Dutch Honeysuckles, but in colour similar to the Scarlet Trumpet. It is a striking object in the flower garden, trained to a stake, being covered with its beautiful flowers all the early summer months.

## T R E E S.

**FRAXINUS ACUBÆFOLIA.** (*The Aucuba-leaved Common Ash.*)—To those who are fond of good variegated trees this will prove a valuable acquisition; the foliage being large and distinctly blotched with bright yellow.

**QUERCUS CERRIS VARIEGATA.** (*The Variegated Turkey Oak.*)—This beautiful plant is a rival of the Gold-edged Holly, and ought to be grown in every collection. The variegation is decided; there is nothing sickly or diseased about it, as is often the case with plants of a similar character. It ought to be grafted on the *Quercus Cerris* (Turkey Oak), being nearest allied to it. We bought one some years ago, worked on the common oak; it has made but little growth, and is an exemplification of the paramount importance of the selection of proper stocks, in fact, to have these and the scions as nearly related (if we may use the term) as possible.

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## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

**HANDS' PILOT PINK.**—This, if we mistake not, will be a great favourite. The petals are broad, smooth, and well shaped; the lacing is a deep reddish purple, very correct, corresponding with the centre; the white, or ground colour beautifully pure; and though it may require a petal or two in the crown, (unless they had been removed from the specimen sent us) still it will eclipse nine-tenths that are out, and as a variety to save seed from it is unrivalled.

**MATTHEWS'S ENCHANTRESS PICOTEE.**—A beautiful light purple edged flower, petals broad and of good substance, large and of first-rate character. This is a variety which must be generally cultivated.



**TURNER'S (OF CHALVEY) AMY PICOTEE.**—A very beautiful flower, excellent in form, purity, and marking, the colour rosy purple, lace well defined and confined to the margins of the petals. To this variety a certificate of merit was awarded at the London Horticultural Society's exhibition.

**MARRIS'S VICTORIA REGINÆ.**—A beautiful heavy-edged rose picotee, perfectly free from bars, specks, or blemishes, and of fine form and petal. If we mistake not, it will prove a first-class flower.

**LEE'S PRIVATEER.**—A heavy-edged red picotee, apparently a seedling from Jessop's Sir William Middleton; a fine sort, with stout well-formed petals, the white pure, and edging distinct.

**KING JAMES (HEADLEY'S) PICOTEE.**—We have been favoured with a bloom of this fine variety. The petals are broad and smooth, heavily laced with dark crimson. It is most like Barraud's Cornelius, but the marking is more clearly defined than in that flower, without the bars or stripes which detract from its merit. It is an attractive sort, and was exhibited at the South London Floral Society's exhibition, in July last, by Messrs. W. and B. Norman, of Woolwich.

**MRS. EDWARDS.**—This fine variety was also exhibited at the same meeting, by Mr. Wilmer, of Sunbury. It is a heavy-edged purple.

**SEEDLING CARNATIONS** of great merit were also exhibited. Barrenger's Earl Spencer, a purple flake, is stated to be a first class flower. We understand this variety was also exhibited at Northampton; and a friend of ours, who saw it there, describes it as well formed, with fine stout petals, beautifully ribboned with purple, on a pure white ground.

**WARD'S SARAH PAYNE.**—An addition to a scarce class. This was also exhibited, and, with the preced-

ing, received a certificate from some of the best judges of the day. It is a finely-formed, distinct, and well-marked crimson bizarre.

**SLATER'S GLADIATOR.**—Crimson bizarre. A beautiful high coloured variety. The pod is good, petals well formed, and the colour well distributed. The margins of the petals curve slightly inwards, and in the present state of this class, it will be found a great acquisition. It is also remarkably steady.

**HOLLYOAK'S DIDO.**—A scarlet flake, with beautiful petal, the white good, and colour brilliant. A decided improvement.

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## FRUITS.

**PITMANSTON ORANGE NECTARINE.**—This variety was raised, we believe, near Worcester. The fruit is large and extremely handsome, with which is combined the important property of excellent flavour. In the south of England it ripens in August, whilst September may be quoted as its period of perfection in the midland counties.

**ALTHORPE CRESSAN PEAR,** raised from seed by the late Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. This is an extremely hardy variety, of good flavour, and very prolific. Its season is the latter end of November and December.

**BEURRE DE CAPIAUMONT.**—A pear well adapted for small gardens, to grow as a bush, or "*en pyramide*." It is a most profuse bearer, and though not quite so good a flavour as some others, still it is very juicy and good, and we would recommend it for its certainty of cropping.

## HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**DIANTHUS HENDERSONIANUS.**—Very double flowers, of the richest crimson. This most beautiful plant, which appears to be a hybrid, or cross, between the Chinese pink and the carnation, should be generally cultivated.

**ONOBRYCHIS RADIATA.** (*Ray-fruited Saintfoin.*)—A pretty herbaceous plant, bearing spikes of pea-shaped blossoms, which are produced in abundance. They are white, with a yellow spot in the centre.

**GALLARDIA ELEGANS PICTA.**—A most striking acquisition to our border plants. The flowers are large, and of a deep crimson, margined with bright orange yellow. It flowers profusely during the summer and autumn months, and will highly please whoever grows it.

**BLACK PRINCE HOLLYHOCK.**—This superb sort was raised by Mr. Gibbons, of Bramcote, near Nottingham. The flowers are of the largest size, extremely double, and well formed, and the darkest we have yet seen. No collection of these noble flowers will be complete without it.

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HALF HARDY PLANT,

**IMPATIENS PLATYPETALA.** (*Broad Flat-petaled Balsam.*)—This appears to be a most desirable plant, blooming the whole of the summer. The flowers are single, about the size of a half-crown, and of a most lively rose colour, with a dark centre.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## RAISING POTATOES FROM SEED.

ANY information bearing on the culture of this most valuable root, we are quite sure will be interesting to our readers, and from the success which has attended the efforts of several individuals in originating fresh varieties from seed, for instance, the Chalmore Kidney, and the Flour Ball, we are certain that if the following directions were attended to, a great advance would speedily be made in the introduction of well flavoured and productive varieties, with all the vigour or stamina which newly raised sorts are well known to possess. We give the following extract, in order that our readers may look out in time, and procure well ripened seed for the experiment next spring :—

“About the middle or latter end of April, a slight bed is made, of any fermenting materials most convenient to be had, such as old linings, tree leaves, in short, anything that will cause a gentle heat. A strong heat is by all means to be avoided, as the young plants are sure to come up weak if the heat is strong. A frame is not requisite. A turf-pit, or a few rough boards, to keep the fermenting materials together, and straw cover to protect the young plants at night, is all that is requisite. The compost I use is as follows :—About three inches of cut moss and leaf mould, well mixed together, is laid evenly upon the surface of the bed, and slightly pressed with the back of a spade; and over that about one inch of leaf mould and sandy soil mixed together. The seeds are then sown, and lightly pressed, and covered with about half an inch of the same sort of soil; and a gentle watering is given with a fine rose watering pot. When the plants are large enough to handle, they are planted out in a warm border of well pulverised soil. I plant them on the tops of ridges, two feet and a half apart, and one foot in the ridge. By planting them on the top of the ridge, the earth can be drawn down with ease, and the tubers partially exposed to the atmosphere, which has a tendency to check the luxuriance of growth to which seedling potatoes are liable. The reason I mix moss with the mould is, that by that means the plants may be transplanted with balls at any time.

“J. R.”

## ROOT-PRUNING THE CURRANT TREE.

WE have been asked the proper manner of shortening the roots of currant trees, to induce fertility. We extract the following directions from a paper communicated to the Horticultural Society of London, in February last, by Mr. Robert Errington, "On the beneficial effects of an annual root-cutting with certain fruit-bearing plants:"—

"The root-cutting I recommend for the currant is practised at the extremity of the fibres, and is a matter of great simplicity. A line is stretched parallel with the row, at about thirty inches from the stems (if strong bushes), and the line *chopped out*. The line being removed, a trench is opened at one end, and a deep spit dug out, nearly to the bottom of the roots, and placed aside, similar to the manner of making a celery trench. All roots on the farther side of the line from the tree are entirely cut away, and the trench merely filled again with the ordinary soil of the garden, which lies close at hand, and for which the excavated soil is substituted. This operation should be performed as soon as the leaves are fallen, in order that the bush may commence a series of fresh roots, to meet the demands of the coming spring. Now, though I advocate the cutting of the extremities, I never dig over the surface roots of my bushes; these remain untouched, and even receive a slight top-dressing, when necessary, of half-decayed tree leaves, more in order to coax the roots to the surface than for the sake of manuring."

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## CLASS SHOWING AS A TEST FOR SEEDLINGS.

THIS is an excellent test when the showing and judging is honest, and the test is properly applied, but it will mislead worse than anything if there be unfair play—that is, if the thing be not honourably conducted. For instance, if a judge act wrong, either from ignorance or design, and place a new and bad thing before an old and a good one, the public will be deceived into a belief that the new flower is an improvement on the old one, and it will lead to the disappointment which all have had to deplore more or less; therefore, the necessity of good judges is as great as if there were stands in competition, and these judges should be the same for given periods when once elected, because, as we have before maintained, they are at once made

responsible for their acts, and this responsibility, presuming them to be able, insures a careful and proper award. But class showing may not be a safe test in all cases, even if the judge be able and honest, for a seedling may beat a named flower, because the named favourite is badly shown, and not because the seedling is really better, hence the danger of trusting implicitly and entirely to the result of a class show. It is only safe when there is a series of shows, and all more or less corresponding, that they may be taken to indicate the true value of a flower. But class showing is useful in other respects—it enables small growers to compete with success, and therefore ought to insure better flowers. Whenever a fine specimen is produced, the owner is encouraged to show it, because it is almost sure of a prize, and when the flowers are placed in classes, the young florist obtains a very useful lesson by noting what puts one flower before another; whereas, in stands of flowers, his attention is divided between twelve, or perhaps twenty-four blooms, and the reasons are not so easily seen by the inexperienced who wish to learn. Upon the whole, then, *class showing must be deemed the most useful in promoting the advancement of the science.* When the best scarlet, the best lilac, the best anything, is entitled to a prize, we have only to look at and compare a single bloom, and there is much less difficulty to judge the points on a single flower than the points in a dozen. However there is a general desire to show stands of flowers as well as single blooms, and in this case the best plan is to allow the losing stands to be broken up, and the best blooms from each to be shown in classes. It in the first place gets rid of the bad stands, and in the next place retains in the classes all the good flowers; but it is the class showing alone which gives us a notion of which are the best flowers, for ten or eleven good flowers may always take through one or two inferior, *so that the fact of a flower being in a winning stand says but little for it,* while its beating in a class is, if the award be honest, strong presumption of its superiority.—*Gard.'s Gaz.*

## WALL FRUIT TREES.

It is no uncommon thing to have trees destitute of bearing wood in their centre. The following French method of remedying the defect, we extract from the *Gardener's Chronicle*:—

“Various means are resorted to by gardeners to supply a deficiency of branches in wall trees, and with greater or less success; we imagine, however, that the following French mode, which may be termed herbaceous inarching, so far at least as the scion is concerned, offers advantages over every other plan at present in use. It is adopted in the Society's garden, and consists in inarching the growing extremities of adjoining shoots to the parts of the stem from which it is desirable branches should proceed. A small slice is taken off the extremity of the young shoot, and a corresponding extent of surface immediately below the inner bark of the stem is exposed; the two are joined together, and a perfect union is very soon effected. By this means, tiers of horizontals, in young trees, may be formed without disappointment, and branches may be replaced in old trees more readily than by the old mode of side grafting or budding.”

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## Part III.

## REVIEW.



**THE RURAL CYCLOPEDIA, OR A GENERAL DICTIONARY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE ARTS, SCIENCES, INSTRUMENTS, AND PRACTICE, NECESSARY TO THE FARMER, STOCK-FARMER, GARDENER, FORESTER, LAND STEWARD, &c. Edited by the Rev. John M. Wilson. A. Fullarton and Co. Edinburgh, London, and Dublin.**

This is a most interesting work, treating of the various subjects in a lucid and comprehensive manner. It is well printed on excellent paper, and not only is it worthy the attention of the parties for whom it is

expressly written, but the general reader will find much to instruct, interest, and amuse. We shall make a short extract relative to sugar manufactured from the beet root.

"The following is the ordinary process of extracting the sugar from this plant:—The roots are reduced to a pulp, by pressing them between two rough cylinders, the pulp is then put into bags, and the sap it contains is pressed out. The liquor is then boiled, and the saccharine matter precipitated by quicklime. The liquor is now poured off, and to the residuum is added a solution of sulphuric acid, and again boiled; the lime, united with the acid, is got rid of by straining; and the liquor is then gently evaporated, or left to granulate slowly, after which it is ready for undergoing the common process of refining raw sugars. The French manufacturers have acquired so much experience in this process, that from every hundred pounds of beet they extract twelve pounds of sugar, in the short space of twelve hours. The total quantity of beet-root sugar manufactured in France, in the year 1845 and 6 amounted to nearly forty thousand tons."

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## QUERIES.



I very much wish to know what are the best succession crops for a small garden; I have been in the habit of only getting one in a season. Being a novice in such matters, and doing my gardening myself, I shall be glad of any information likely to make my piece of ground more profitable.

A YOUNGSTER.

I have heard with much pleasure that a great quantity of new sorts of potatoes have been raised within the few past years, some few of them eclipsing the old varieties, in the amount of produce, beauty of appearance, and flavour. I think you mentioned the Flour Ball as particularly good. Do you know the Chalmore Kidney, or a sort called the Lapstone, sold out, I think, somewhere in Yorkshire? I am sure you could not confer a greater favour on your readers, or contribute more to the general good, than by giving information of all new sorts that possess any desirable properties, which may come under your observation. I trust you will keep this in mind, and it will oblige not only myself but many others of your readers in this part.

*Liverpool.*

R. S.



I am a working man, and loving a garden, have managed to erect a greenhouse. For, you know, Cowper says,

"He who loves a garden, loves a greenhouse too."

This is the case with me, and the one I have built is small, about nine feet long, and seven feet and a half wide. The plants I am most fond of are fuchsias and pelargoniums, therefore I should feel much obliged if you would, in your next number, give a list of six of the best light and six of the best dark fuchsias, and twelve pelargoniums; of course I do not mean the new and expensive sorts, but good florists' flowers, within the reach of a working man, and such as you would recommend a beginner to commence stocking his house with.

J. W.

[We think the undermentioned selection will suit our correspondent, and can be obtained at a moderate price, at least small plants may:—*Six Fine Light Fuchsias*.—Dr. Jepson (Cullis), Beauty of Leeds (Nicholson), Empress (Halley), Napoleon (Milliez), Fair Maid (Rogers), Queen Victoria (Smith).—*Six Dark Fuchsias*.—Nicholsii, Giganta (Smith), Napoleon (Salter), Highland Chief (Halley), Othello (Harrison), Gipsy (Barkway).—*Twelve Geraniums*.—Princess Alice (Gains), Sir R. Peel (Foster), Duke of Cornwall (Lyne), Pluto (Thurtell), Sunrise (Lyne), Rosalia (Hoyle), Titus (Hoyle), Redworth (Lyne), General Pollock (Hoyle), Magog, Mustee (Beck), Isabella (Beck).]

What is *Aristolochia siphon*? Is it a climbing plant, or adapted for a pillar, or covering a trellis?

J.

Having purchased a large quantity of breeder, or self tulips, which bloomed with me last season, I find that many are tinged with dark on the filaments that support the anthers; as some of the best named varieties are thus stained, will you tell me, in your next, whether it is a defect, or not?

I wish some of your correspondents would give us a list of a few of the newest and best roses out; also information as to what work treats on roses, so that an amateur might obtain some insight into their properties, cultivation, &c. I have heard of *Pauls' Rose Grower*; is it a good work?

[We really cannot say whether the book alluded to is a good one or not; we make a point of reading all works *through* before we venture to express an opinion on them, when sent for review, and this work we have not yet seen; though we should imagine, from the experience of Messrs. Paul, that it *ought* to be good.]

Having a quantity of seedling polyanthuses in pans, would it be advisable to put them out now?

R.

[Choose showery weather, the early part of the month, and prick them out into a north border, of well prepared soil.]

Will you, in your next number, give a list of some of the best peas? Any information on the new varieties sold out last spring would also be highly acceptable. R. M.

I budded several roses last season, which grew beautifully; but I have had the extreme mortification of having them blown out by the wind, and utterly destroyed. I should be glad if you would tell me how to prevent a recurrence of this disaster, in your next number, and oblige AN AMATEUR.

I see, in a neighbouring garden, some apricots have been planted as standards. Will they do thus, so far north as Nottingham?—[We should say it is a bad plan.]

Would you be kind enough to state in your next number what is the best material in which to store dahlia roots, with a few hints on their winter and spring management? and you will greatly oblige I. O.

Being much interested with your remarks relative to the currant trees trained *en pyramide*, perhaps it would be convenient to give a few plain instructions, in your next number, as to the best method of completely accomplishing the object intended. Perhaps the writer may be incorrect, but it seems to him necessary to begin with one year old plants, carefully preserving the leading bud, in order to ensure the continued upright growth of the tree. Here however the writer would beg to be set right. The *sort* of currant should also have been stated. Would it not be either the *red* or *white* variety? being doubtful whether the *black* would allow (at least to bear well) the free cutting or shortening required. IGNORAMUS.

1847-8, *Month 4th*.—Please, John F. Wood, I, John Pollard, wish to ask thee a kindness, about my greenhouse. I have built a greenhouse, seven feet and a half wide, five yards long, and seven feet high; I am a weekly tenant; can my landlord take this place from me at his pleasure, after a week's notice? I have four hundred yards of garden; if I set my fruit trees or plants therein, has he got law to take them also? If thou please, let me know about the law of greenhouse and garden, either by thy own writing, or by any book thou can recommend to me for paying for. I remain a requiring friend,

No 2, *Law Field, Holbeck, Leeds.*

JOHN POLLARD.

[Our correspondent, we fear, would be obliged to leave the *walls* at least of his little greenhouse; but we should suppose that no landlord with any feeling would turn a tenant out at a week's notice, in fact, he could not, *unless he were a weekly tenant*. No person can legally remove trees or shrubs, unless they have been planted out, to grow for sale, as in nursery grounds. Orchard trees (though extremely hard on the the planters) belong to the landlord, after being planted seven years.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ONE WHO LOVES A TULIP.—In part 10, page 466, of the *Horticultural Magazine*, the Duke of Devonshire tulip is spoken of as being broken, and likewise raised from seed, by Mr. Dickson, of Acre-lane, Brixton, Surrey.—I.—[We understand there are several (so called) new varieties, all broken from the Devonshire breeder. Such are Brown's Vivid, Alexander's Monarch, &c. They are fine breaks only of this noble flower.—ED.]

ALEXANDER.—We have seen clean flowers produced from the seed of a run scarlet flake, which had been saved by a cottager, who thought the self very handsome; but a great majority of the seedlings, say at least nine-tenths, were utterly worthless. It is a plan we would by no means recommend.

J. W.—We have applied to Mr. Hall, for information relative to the system he adopts in training his currant trees *en pyramide*.—We would rather use the compost alluded to in the spring.—By all means root-prune in autumn.

J. W.—I make my compost without the straw, and do not use rabbit, but other manure; I generally turn mine over at the commencement of winter, and it is fit for use at spring; and I find it better for vegetables than manure. His gooseberries, &c. had better be pruned root and branch, and new ones substituted. XX.

B.—The pea alluded to is not a new variety. It is known on the Continent as the *Pois sans parchement*, and eaten like the kidney bean.

B.—Your skinless pea may or may not be new; there are three varieties of the skinless, two of them are, to my knowledge, twenty years old, how much more I cannot say. They are eaten generally as French beans, or scarlet runners. The White Skinless is the best, but the Purple Spotted the most prolific. This latter bears pods seven or eight inches long, an inch wide, and very crooked. XX.

TULIPS.—HOMO.—We can supply the breeders he writes for. As far as we can learn, Grace Darling breeder is unknown; and as for his query respecting the confusion attending them, we are obliged to decline inserting his letter (though he has our best thanks), because we should in justice be obliged to insert the reply. We must say also that it is a cheap way of advertising; and we make no doubt that the correspondence which was carried on in the columns of the *Gazette*, sold more bulbs than the same amount of advertising would have done.

**DIANTHUS.**—Barraud's Euphemia, Martin's Queen Isabella, Duc d'Alencon, Lady Sefton, Rubens, and Topaz. The above are as good as any out, but we anticipate great improvement in this class very soon.

**BIGNONIA RADICANS.**—In reply to your correspondent, Rector, I beg to say that I have a plant in a similar aspect which blooms profusely. The soil is rather poor, on a gravelly sub-soil, which may probably account for the production of flowers instead of leaves and shoots. I make no doubt that root-pruning would have the desired effect, by checking the over luxuriance of the plant.

*Manchester.*

A NURSERYMAN.

**J. P.**—The tulip tree grows to a large size, and was originally introduced from North America. We recollect seeing a large tree, twenty-eight or thirty years ago, in full flower, at Water-beach, near one of the entrances to Goodwood, the seat of the Duke of Richmond. We went to school at that period, at Chichester, and though a youngster, was much struck with the beauty of the tree, as well as the singularity of its foliage, the leaves being each apparently cut across at the top. We should be glad to have the girth and height of that tree, if it would not be too much trouble for some of our readers in the neighbourhood. We are greatly obliged to our friend at North Muskham, for his extract from the *Gentleman's Magazine*; but, perhaps from the habit of the plant being little known when that description was written, there are several inaccuracies; one of which is that the plant requires protection for seven years in this country, whereas it is perfectly hardy from the seed. We shall be happy to have his promised communications, when convenient.

**Mr. Greenhalgh**, Carr Bank, near Mansfield, observing an inquiry respecting the tulip tree, in the *Midland Florist*, sends specimens of the flowers. The tree in his grounds is about forty years old, and is in fine health, and rarely omits blooming abundantly in July; it is about thirty five feet high, and perhaps one hundred feet round, and the trunk four or five feet in circumference. It is said to be the finest tree of the kind in this neighbourhood, and is highly ornamental, either in or out of bloom. The flowers now sent are smaller than usual, being late blossoms. [August 13.]

**LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA.** (*The Tulip-bearing Liriodendron, or Tulip Tree.*)—A large deciduous tree, with smooth saddle-shaped leaves, a fine brownish green smooth bark, and large flowers, with green, yellow, and orange petals. In America it grows to the height of one hundred feet or upwards, and in England it attains the height of sixty or seventy feet. It well deserves a place in every collection of trees, for the singularity and beauty of its foliage. In America, the bark is

considered equal to that of quinquia, as an aromatic, tonic, and antiseptic. In Evelyn's time, this tree was called the Virginian poplar. He describes it as a fine tree, brought over by Tradescant, and adds, "I wish we had more of them, but they are very difficult to elevate at first."—*Loudon's Catalogue of the Derby Arboretum*.

Our other correspondents next month.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR SEPTEMBER.

In the hardy department, cuttings of evergreens, such as *laurels*, *arborvitæ*, &c. may be put in; also *Chinese* and *Bourbon roses*. The former in a mixture of sand and loam, on a shady border; the latter in sandy soil, under handglasses, where, with a little attention, they will strike root, and make good plants in spring. Should the weather prove damp at the latter end of the month, evergreens, such as *rhododendrons*, *laurestinus*, and *arbutus* (the scarlet and double varieties), may be transplanted with success and any layers that may have rooted, should be removed from the parent plant, and set out. *Gooseberry* and *currant cuttings* should also be planted.

In herbaceous plants, seedlings which have been raised in pans during the summer, should be set out in beds; and division of the roots of those sorts which it is desirable to increase, may now be performed very advantageously.

*Seedling polyanthus*es should also be planted out, if not previously done; and *pansies* may be struck from cuttings, early in the month, choosing side-shoots, as thin as possible; these will make good plants, either to send off, or to plant for next spring's blooming. Plant out seedlings, that they may get well established before winter. We apply the same advice with respect to the layers of *carnations* and *picotees*; as soon as rooted, take them off, and pot them singly or in pairs, in pint pots. As there appears to be a promise of much seed this season, every care should be given to carefully collecting it, as the pods arrive at maturity.

Early in the month sow *erysimums*, *escholtzias*, *candy tufts*, &c. These will resist the frost, and bloom finely next spring. Cut away and remove all decayed stems of herbaceous plants, annuals, &c. which have done flowering.

Plant the various bulbs, such as *narcissuses*, &c. Those patches which have got too large, or which it is desirable to separate, may now be taken up, parted, and re-planted.

*Dahlias* must be carefully attended to this month; having been much checked by drought and the smother fly, during the summer, should the weather prove propitious, we may yet have a splendid bloom. Towards the latter end of the month, draw some earth round the crown of the roots, which will prevent damage by sudden frosts, and attend to seed, &c.

*Tulip beds* should be well attended to, and turned over repeatedly, to sweeten; and every preparation for planting, as far as possible, should be made, by arranging bulbs, removing those which were either of inferior strains, or which are now repudiated, in consequence of having "*a stain on their character.*" Amateurs should not delay procuring the varieties they may want, as really good tulips are in much request.

In the vegetable garden, the great work of storing all root crops must be progressed with. *Carrots* and *parsnips* are best put in cellars, in boxes, with layers of dry sand between them. *Potatoes*, where there is convenience of room, should be put together in small quantities. If there be any lurking germs of disease, heating in large heaps will probably accelerate its spread.

*Onions* should be pulled early in the month, or as soon as they are ready, and either be allowed to dry on the beds, previous to bunching, or removed to some upper chamber or loft, secure from the influence of wet.

Gather *tomatoes* the latter end of the month. Though not grown generally in cottage gardens, still, as they make a most excellent and wholesome sauce, we see no reason why they might not be cultivated more extensively.

*Celery* should be watered in very dry weather. Those who grow for exhibition often use liquid manure, by which means this favourite root attains a large size. Some cultivators allow their plants to attain a large size before they earth them up; they then fasten the leaves together at the top with thin pieces of matting, and give the plants a full and only earthing up. If this plan is not adopted, repeated and careful moulding must be attended to.

Transplant *cabbages*, *cauliflowers*, *lettuces*, &c. whenever the plants attain a sufficient size; and propagate all *herbs*, by cuttings, slips, or divisions.

Early in the month plant out *strawberry runners*, and clear between the rows of plants, &c.

All sorts of *seeds* must be preserved as they ripen; and such things as *nasturtians*, small *cucumbers*, &c. for pickling, should not be forgotten.

In conclusion, lose no opportunity of hoeing and stirring the soil between growing crops. Many people are not aware of the immense importance of attending to this point. A Vernon hoe is a most excellent tool for this purpose.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

## MANSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

June 1st, 1847.

Best pan of Tulips, Mr. Battersby, Gibbons' Maid of Orleans, Gibbons Grace Darling, Candidate (seedling), Diadem (flamed seedling), Duchess of Newcastle, Lord Hill.

Best of any Colour.—Mr. Battersby, President (a seedling feathered bizarre).

*Flamed Roses*.—1. Mr. Redgate, Lord Hill; 2. Mr. Battersby, Belvoir Rose; 3. Mr. Redgate, Dark Rose; 4. Mr. Oldham, Triomphe Royale; 5. Mr. Battersby, Lord Hill; 6. Mr. Battersby, Gibbons' Lady Sale.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. Redgate, Lady Crewe; 2. Mr. Battersby, Duchess of Newcastle; 3. Mr. Redgate, Lady Crewe; 4. Mr. Battersby, Lady Crewe; 5. Mr. Walker, Lady Crewe; 6. Mr. Redgate, Unknown.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Walker, Lustre; 2. Mr. Battersby, Captain White; 3. Mr. Battersby, Victory; 4. Mr. Battersby, Diadem; 5. Mr. Redgate, Crown Prince; 6. Mr. Walker, Platoff.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Redgate, Platoff; 2. Mr. Battersby, Platoff; 3. Mr. Battersby, Trafalgar; 4. Mr. Battersby, Firebrand; 5. Mr. Battersby, Firebrand; 6. Mr. Redgate, Unknown.

*Flamed Byblœmens*.—1. Mr. Walker, Violet Wallers; 2. Mr. Walker, Black Baguet; 3. Mr. Battersby, Gibbons' Maid of Orleans; 4. Mr. Walker, Unknown; 5. Mr. Redgate, Princess Charlotte; 6. Mr. Redgate Washington.

*Feathered Byblœmens*.—1. Mr. Oldham, Baguet; 2. Mr. Redgate, Washington; 3. Mr. Redgate, Washington; 4. Mr. Redgate, Unknown; 5. Mr. Redgate, Unknown; 6. Mr. Redgate, Unknown.

*Seedlings*.—Mr. Battersby, best flamed Bizarre, Diadem; best feathered, President.

## THE WARRINGTON FLORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This society held its first meeting for the year on Thursday, the 3rd of June last. From unavoidable causes, the exhibition was deferred a week longer than its proper time; and the consequence was an indifferent show of tulips. Three of the classes could not be filled up, and most of the blooms were more or less faded.

The gems of the exhibition were unquestionably Gibbons's Maid of Orleans and Allen's Sarah Anne—the former a beautiful byblœmen of exquisite purity, with a broad raven-black feather; and the latter a finely formed byblœmen also, heavily feathered and flamed with a rich dark colour, almost as black as the other, and having petals of great substance, with a bottom as white as snow. They were both broken from breeders by their present owner, and are a splendid addition to their respective classes.

Mr. John Slater, of Cheetham Hill, Manchester, was the judge on this occasion; and the following is a list of prizes awarded:—

The best Tulip, Mr. G. W. Hardy, Maid of Orleans.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Magnum Bonum; 2. Mr. Nunnerley, Scholes's Delight; 3. Mr. Nunnerley, Trafalgar; 4. Mr. Ravenscroft, Unknown; 5. Mr. Hardy, Surpass Catafalque; 6. Mr. Nunnerley, Crown Prince.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Lustre; 2. Mr. Hardy, Polyphemus; 3. Mr. Hardy, Charbonnier Noir; 4. Mr. Ravenscroft, Surpass Lacantique; 5. Mr. P. Davies, Unknown; 6. Mr. Ravenscroft, Grand Turk.

*Feathered Byblœmens*.—1. Mr. Ravenscroft, Washington; 2. Mr. Hardy, La Belle Narene.

*Flamed Byblœmens*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Allen's Sarah Anne; 2. Mr. Hardy, Bienfait; 3. Mr. Hardy, Violet Wallers; 4. Mr. Ravenscroft, Violet Fond Noir; 5. Mr. Ravenscroft, Unknown; 6. Mr. Nunnerley, Unknown.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Heroine; 2. Mr. Hardy, Lady Crewe; 3. Mr. Ravenscroft, Dollittle; 4. Mr. Hardy, Arlette; 5. Mr. Ravenscroft, Holden's Rose; 6. Mr. Davies, Rose Ruby.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Rose Camuse; 2. Mr. Davies, Rose Ruby; 3. Mr. Penketh, Triumph Royal; 4. Mr. Hardy, Alexander le Roi; 5. Mr. Munnerley, Lord Hill.

*Bizarre Breeder*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Victory.

*Byblæmen Breeder*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Maid of Orleans.

*Yellow Self*.—1. Mr. Hardy, Min d'Or.

#### ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE FLORAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, June 4.

The judges for tulips were Mr. John Slater, of Cheetham-hill; Mr. William Allsop, of Stockport; and Mr. Abraham Clegg, of Manchester; who awarded the prizes as follows:—

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, S. Cock, Charles X; 1. S. Shawcross, Sidney Smith; 2. W. Peacock, Esq., Surpass Catafalque; 3. S. Ashton, Duke de Savoy; 4. J. Wood, Trafalgar; 5. J. Massey, Seedling; 6. B. Haigh, Crown Prince; 7. S. Ardern, Suwarrow.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, S. Cock, Lustre; 1. J. Peacock, Esq., Polyphemus; 2. T. Leech, Albion; 3. J. Wilde, Surpass Lacantique; 4. T. Leech, Charles X; 5. B. Haigh, Cato; 6. T. Leech, Shakspeare; 7. S. Cock, Lord Milton.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—Premier, W. Matley, Bienfait; 1. S. Cock, Baguet; 2. J. Naylor, Lord Durham; 3. J. Naylor, Washington; 4. S. Cock, Haigh's Violet Amiable; 5. J. Wilde, Catharina; 6. S. Cock, Ambassador; 7. J. Peacock, Esq., Pucelle de Orleans.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—Premier, J. Naylor, Violet Waller; 1. S. Cock, Bienfait; 2. T. Leech, Roi de Siam; 3. S. Shawcross, Incomparable; 4. J. Wild, Alexander Magnus; 5. S. Ashton, Esq., Beauty; 6. T. Leech, Bacchus; 7. T. Cock, Queen Charlotte.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, J. Wilde, Heroine; 1. J. Wilde, Lady Crewe; 2. J. Massey, Hero of the Nile; 3. S. Shawcross, Newcastle; 4. B. Haigh, Compte; 5. J. Massey, Duke de Bronte; 6. J. Naylor, Lady Jane Grey; 7. J. S. Ashton, Esq., Dollittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, W. Matley, Rose Vesta; 1. S. Cock, Rose Unique; 2. J. Wood, La Vanduycken; 3. S. Cock, Aglala; 4. S. Cheetham, Triomphe Royale; 5. J. Massey, Newcastle; 6. T. Leech, Lady Crewe; 7. T. Leech, Lord Hill.

Best yellow self, S. Shawcross, Min d'Or.

Best white self, J. Massey, White Flag.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Massey, Polyphemus; 2. J. Naylor, Duke of Hamilton; 3. J. Massey, Sunbeam; 4. J. Naylor, Pilot; 5. J. Wilde, Grace Darling; 6. T. Leech, Charbonnier; 7. J. Wilde, Surpass Catafalque; 8. J. Wilde, Cato.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. W. Matley, Princess Royal; 2. J. Naylor, Lord Durham; 3. J. Massey, Deception; 4. J. Massey, Sable King; 5. S. Cock, Beauty; 6. B. Haigh, Seedling No. 8; 7. T. Leech, Verport; 8. J. Naylor, Unknown.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. S. Cock, Haigh's Lady Grey; 2. W. Matley, Andromeda; 3. S. Cock, Lady Crewe; 4. S. Cock, Newcastle; 5. W. Peach, Esq., Rose Breeder; 6. W. Matley, Lady Sale; 7. S. Cock, Glaphra.

#### TODMORDEN FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

June 5.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. A. Taylor, Sir Sidney Smith; 2. T. Lord, Surpass Catafalque; 3. J. Suthers, Firebrand; 4. A. Taylor, Surpass Grand Duke; 5. R. W. Foster, Magnum Bonum; 6. R. W. Foster, Sultana; 7. J. Suthers, Goude Beures.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Suthers, Lustre de Beaute; 2. J. Suthers, Prince of Russia; 3. J. Suthers, Pompey's Pillar; 4. J. Suthers, Farrand's Liberty; 5. J. Suthers, Black Prince; 6. R. W. Foster, Albion; 7. J. Suthers, Old Lacantique.



*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Haigh, La Belle Narene; 2. A. Taylor, Bienfait; 3. R. W. Foster, Catherina; 4. J. Suthers, Ambassador de Holland; 5. T. Lord, Duc de Bordeaux; 6. A. Taylor, Washington; 7. J. Suthers, Maitre Partout.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. A. Taylor, Violet Wallers; 2. J. Suthers, Violet a Font Noir; 3. R. W. Foster, Incomparable Verport; 4. T. Lord, Sable Rex; 5. A. Taylor, Baguet; 6. A. Taylor, Washington; 7. R. W. Foster, Grotius.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Lord, Lady Crewe; 2. J. Haigh, Lord Middleton; 3. R. W. Foster, Heroine; 4. W. Greenwood, Esq., Compté de Vergennes; 5. R. W. Foster, Duc de Bronte; 6. T. Lord, Rose de Pierre; 7. W. Greenwood, Esq., Dolittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. T. Lord, Unique; 2. A. Taylor, Triomphe Royale; 3. R. W. Foster, Vesta; 4. R. W. Foster, Cerise Belle Forme; 5. R. W. Foster, Gibbons' Lady Stanley; 6. R. W. Foster, Lord Hill; 7. R. W. Foster, Turner's Rose.

The best breeder (of any class), T. Lord, Verport (bybl.); 2. R. W. Foster, Haigh's Lady Gray (rose); 3. R. W. Foster, Cato (biz).

The best self, J. Suthers, Min d'Or; 2. J. Suthers, Hoyles' Canary; 3. J. Haigh, White Flag.

Judge—Colonel Lee, of Bagalot, Lancashire.

### LANCASTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first exhibition for the season, of this association, took place June 5th, in the Boys' National School.

#### TULIPS.

Best pan, Mr. Richardson, Charles X., Black Baguet, Duc de Bronte, Albion, Princess of Wurtemburgh, and Roi de Cerise.—Second best, Mr. Walmsley, Crown Prince, Black Baguet, Andromeda, Albion, Wurtemburgh, and Glory of Walworth.—Third best, Mr. Hargrave, Penny-street, Defiance, Black Baguet, Incomparable, Le Non, Bienfait, and Triomphe Royale.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Richardson, Duke of Lancaster; 2. Duchess of Hamilton, Trafalgar; 3. Mr. J. Walmsley, Goud Beures; 4. Mr. J. Walmsley, Crown Prince; 5. Mr. J. Walmsley, Charles X.; 6. Mr. J. Walmsley, Royal Sovereign; 7. Mr. J. Richardson, Duc de Savoy; 8. Mr. J. Walmsley, Gargantheum.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Duchess of Lancaster, Lustre de Beauty; 2. Mr. Richardson, Albion; 3. Hargreaves and Son, Grand Cairo; 4. Mr. Walmsley, Duke of Lancaster; 5. Mr. Richardson, Carlo Dolce; 6. Mr. Richardson, Flame le Garde; 7. Mr. Walmsley, Crown Prince; 8. John Armstrong, Esq. Smith's Alexander.

*Feathered Ryblæmens*.—1. Mr. J. Walmsley, Ambassador de Holland; 2. Mr. Richardson, Bienfait Incomparable; 3. Mr. Walmsley, Black Baguet; 4. Mr. Richardson, Victoria; 5. Mr. Walmsley, Buckley's Beauty; 6. Mr. Walmsley, Buckley's 46; 7. Mr. Walmsley, Matilda; 8. Mr. Walmsley, Voorhelm.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. Richardson, Incomparable; 2. Mr. Richardson, Wurtemburgh; 3. Hargreaves and Son, Sable Rex; 4. Duchess of Hamilton, Woolstan's Seedling; 5. Duchess of Hamilton, Grandeur Superbe; 6. Mr. Walmsley, Princess Charlotte; 7. Mr. Walmsley, Violet Winner; 8. Hargreaves and Son, Grand Imperial.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. Walmsley, Madame Malibran; 2. Mr. J. Richardson, Duc de Bronte; 3. Mr. J. Richardson, Compté de Vergennes; 4. Mr. Walmsley, Duchess of Newcastle; 5. Mr. Walmsley, Andromeda; 6. Mr. Richardson, Dolittle; 7. Mr. Walmsley, Rowbottom's Incomparable; 8. Mr. Richardson, Walworth.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. Mr. Richardson, Roi de Cerise; 2. Duchess of Hamilton, Triomphe Royale; 3. Mr. Richardson, Jenny Lind; 4. Mr. Walmsley, Andromeda; 5. Mr. Walmsley, Princess Royal; 6. Mr. Walmsley, Unique; 7. Mr. Richardson, Lord Hill; 8. Hargreaves and Son, Vesta.

*Selfs*.—Best Byblæmen, Mr. Richardson.—Best Bizarre, Mr. Walmsley.—Best Rose, Mr. Walmsley.—Best Yellow, Duchess of Hamilton, Min d'Or.—Best White, Mr. Richardson, White Flag.

*Double Tulips*.—1. Marriage de ma fille; 2. Mr. Marshall, Bentham, Unknown.

## TULIP SHOW,

At the house of Mr. Robert Cooke, Commercial Inn, Denton, June 5.

Feathered Premier, J. Wild, Surpass Catafalque.

Maiden Prize, H. Couburn, Lady Crewe.

Amateur Subscription Cup, Mr. S. Ardern, for the best stand of six.

—Swarrow, Sans Joe, Grotius, Incomparable, Lady Crewe, and La Vandychen.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Wild, Surpass Catafalque; 2. J. Peacock, Charles X; 3. W. Peacock, Esq., Sidney; 4. S. Cock, Sans Joe; 5. J. Massey, Seedling, No. 5; 6. J. Wild, Rising Sun; 7. J. Peacock, Plato; 8. S. Ardern, Polyphemus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Wild, Catherine; 2. J. Massey, Baguet; 3. J. Wild, Sportsman; 4. J. Massey, Bienfait; 5. J. Massey, Lancashire Hero; 6. J. Massey, Beauty; 7. J. Peacock, Lysander Noir; 8. W. Peacock, Esq., Bell's Violet.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. S. Ardern, Compté; 2. W. Peacock, Esq., Heroine; 3. W. Peacock, Esq., Cataline; 4. J. Massey, Claudiana; 5. S. Cock, Atlas; 6. J. Peacock, Lady Stanley; 7. J. Peacock, Lady Crewe; 8. J. Massey, Newcastle.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. S. Cock, Charbonnier; 2. J. Massey, Polyphemus; 3. J. Massey, Shakspeare; 4. J. Peacock, Leonotus Posthumous; 5. W. Peacock, Esq., Sans Joe; 6. S. Ardern, Charles X; 7. J. Naylor, Morning Star; 8. J. Naylor, Truth.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. W. Peacock, Esq., Sang de Bœuf; 2. S. Ardern, Czarina; 3. J. Massey, Pyramid of Egypt; 4. J. Wild, Beauty; 5. W. Peacock, Esq., Flora; 6. S. Ardern, Incomparable; 7. J. Peacock, Baguet; 8. W. Peacock, Esq., Glory.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. Wild, Triomphe Royale; 2. W. Peacock, Esq., La Vandychen; 3. W. Peacock, Esq., Aglaia; 4. W. Peacock, Esq., Pontious Brilliant; 5. S. Cock, Compté de Vergennes; 6. J. Massey, Fairy Queen; 7. J. Peacock, Camoise de Craix; 8. J. Wild, Matilda.

Best stand of three breeders, J. Wild, Duke of Hamilton, Maid of Orleans, and Artlette; 2. S. Cock, Seedling, 71, and Andromeda; 3. J. Massey, Terene, Sable King, and Lady Sale.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. S. Massey, Polyphemus; 2. W. Peacock, Esq., Athelstan; 3. H. Parsonage, Grace Darling; 4. W. Peacock, Esq., Sunbeam; 5. J. Wild, No. 3 breeder; 6. S. Ardern, Pilot.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Peacock, Sir Henry Pottinger; 2. J. Wild, Maid of Orleans; 3. J. Massey, Sable Lass; 4. J. Massey, Raven; 5. H. Parsonage, Beauty; 6. S. Cock, Ashtonian.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Wild, Seedling, No. 2; 2. J. Peacock, Amelia; 3. W. Peacock, Esq., Lady Suffield; 4. J. Peacock, Seedling, No. 1; 5. J. Wild, Anastasia; 6. J. Naylor, Jupiter.

*Sells*.—1. J. Massey, Min d'Or; 2. J. Taylor, White Flag.

Judges—Messrs. T. Leech, Hooly-hill; J. Slater, Cheetham-hill; and T. B. Haigh, of Ashton.

## TULIP SHOW,

At Red Gate, Blurton, near Longton, June 5.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. A. Shaw, Trafalgar; 2. A. Shaw, Trafalgar; 3. A. Shaw, Sultanna; 4. W. Emony, Firebrand; 5. A. Shaw, Duc de Savoie; 6. T. Rowson, Black Prince.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. E. Poulson, Polyphemus; 2. W. Emony, Charbonnier; 3. E. Poulson, Albion; 4. T. Rowson, Unknown; 5. T. Rowson, Magnum Bonum; 6. W. Emony, Pizarro.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. A. Shaw, La Belle Narene; 2. A. Shaw, La Belle Narene; 3. A. Shaw, Grotius; 4. E. Poulson, Bellona; 5. E. Poulson, Princess Charlotte; 6. W. Emony, Washington.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. E. Poulson, Duc de Florence; 2. A. Shaw, Alexander Magnus; 3. J. Bridgwood, Unknown; 4. E. Poulson, Violet a Font Noir; 5. W. Emony, La Samara; 6. T. Rowson, Princess Charlotte.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Rowson, Duc de Bronte; 2. E. Poulson, Hero of the Nile; 3. E. Poulson, Duc de Bronte; 4. E. Poulson, Lady Crewe; 5. T. Rowson, Dolittle; 6. T. Rowson, Walworth.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. W. Emony, Rose Gurriere; 2. A. Shaw, Matilda; 3. E. Poulson, Lord Hill; 4. W. Emony, Walworth; 5. E. Poulson, Rose Ruby; 6. E. Poulson, Rose Primo.

*Selfs*.—1st and 2nd, A. Shaw.

*Breeders*.—1st, 2nd, and 3rd, T. Rowson.

Judges—Edward Oxley, Longton; David Brown, Newcastle.

### TULIP SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. E. Hodgson, Lomax Arms Inn, June 5.

First pan of six blooms, T. Whalley, for Charles X., Polyphemus, Bienfait, La Belle Narene, Hero, and Alexander du Roi.

Premier prize, for the best feathered bizarre, T. Chippendale, Charles X.; best rose, A. Bentley, Heroine; best byblæmen, R. Housman, Norwich Baguet.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Birtwistle, Charles X.; 2. T. Chippendale, San Joe; 3. J. Morehouse, Firebrand; 4. E. Hodgson, Surpass Catafalque; 5. J. Morehouse, Wellington; 6. E. Hodgson, Trafalgar; 7. E. Hodgson, Magnum Bonum.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. T. Chippendale, Charbonnier; 2. T. Whalley, Charles X.; 3. T. Chippendale, Albion; 4. J. Birtwistle, Surpass Catafalque; 5. T. Chippendale, Paganini; 6. W. Hodgson, Old Catafalque; 7. J. Baron, Lustre.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. T. Chippendale, Bienfait; 2. T. Chippendale, Duc de Bordeaux; 3. W. Birtwistle, La Belle Narene; 4. A. Bentley, Winner; 5. W. Hodgson, Washington; 6. J. Baron, Ambassador; 7. J. Birtwistle, Toute.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. T. Chippendale, Davis's Queen Charlotte; 2. T. Chippendale, Camerine; 3. T. Chippendale, Wollers; 4. T. Chippendale, China Violet; 5. T. Whalley, Magnificent; 6. T. Chippendale, Baguet; 7. E. Hodgson, La Belle Narene.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Count; 2. T. Chippendale, La Belle Narene; 3. E. Hodgson, Newcastle; 4. T. Livsey, Hero; 5. T. Chippendale, Lady Crewe; 6. J. Lawrinson, Walworth; 7. R. Housman, Dolittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Rose Unique; 2. J. Lawrinson, Rose Vesta; 3. R. Housman, La Vandycken; 4. T. Chippendale, Alexander du Roi; 5. T. Chippendale, Lady Crewe; 6. R. Housman, Triomphe Royale; 7. T. Chippendale, Rose Hebe.

*Breeder*.—1. T. Chippendale, Charbonnier; 2. T. Whalley, Sable King; 3. T. Chippendale, Seedling.

Judges—James Foulds, Ralph Howarth, Blackburn; Mr. Thomas Birtwell, gardener to John Taylor, Esq., Morton Hall.

### TULIP MEETING,

At Oakenshaw, near Blackburn, in Lancashire, June 5.

Premium Prize, T. Livsey, Duke of Lancaster.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. T. Livsey, Charbonnier; 2. T. Chippendale, Charles X.; 3. T. Chippendale, Duke of Wellington; 4. T. Chippendale, Priestman's Bizarre; 5. T. Livsey, Duc de Savoy; 6. R. Housman, Beauries; 7. T. Livsey, Firebrand.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. T. Whalley, Albion; 2. E. Hodgson, sen., Duke of Lancaster; 3. T. Whalley, Lustre de Beauty; 4. R. Hous-

man, Incomparable; 5. T. Chippendale, Rufus; 6. E. Hodgson, sen., Don Phenix; 7. E. Hodgson, sen., Priestman's Bizarre.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. R. Housman, La Belle Narene; 2. T. Chippendale, Beinfait; 3. T. Whalley, Ambassador; 4. T. Whalley, Violet Winner; 5. R. Housman, Maitre Partout; 6. T. Chippendale, Violet Pompose; 7. T. Whalley, Washington.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. T. Whalley, Baguet Beinfait; 2. T. Livsey, Baguet; 3. T. Whalley, Pandora; 4. E. Hodgson, Beinfait; 5. T. Whalley, Washington; 6. T. Chippendale, Democrat; 7. T. Livsey, Violet Wallers.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Compte de Vergennes; 2. T. Whalley, Hero of the Nile; 3. T. Livsey, Lady Crewe; 4. T. Chippendale, La Belle Nannette; 5. T. Livsey, Dolittle; 6. T. Whalley, Amelia; 7. T. Chippendale, Scipio Africanus.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Unique; 2. T. Livsey, Roi de Cerise; 3. T. Chippendale, Lady Crewe; 4. T. Whalley, Seedling; 5. T. Chippendale, Lord Hill; 6. T. Livsey, Rose Vesta; 7. T. Whalley, Rose Hebe.

*Breeders*.—T. Livsey, Duch Breeder (biz.); T. Whalley, Duchess of Lancaster (byb.); T. Chippendale, Lady Stanley (rose).

*Self*.—T. Whalley, Min d'Or.

*Doubles*.—R. Housman, Double Bizarre; T. Livsey, Double Rose.

### TULIP MEETING,

At Great Harwood, Lancashire, June 5.

Best pan of six, T. Whalley, for Beinfait, Hero of the Nile, Polyphemus, La Belle Narene, Alexander du Roi.

Sweepstakes for the best bloom of all, T. Whalley, Beinfait.

Premium Prizes.—T. Chippendale, Duke of Lancaster; R. Housman, Baguet; A. Bentley, Triomphe Royale.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Birtwistle, Duke of Lancaster; 2. T. Chippendale, San Joe; 3. J. Moorhouse, Firebrand; 4. E. Hodgson, jun., Surpass Catafalque; 5. J. Moorhouse, Duke of Wellington; 6. E. Hodgson, jun., Trafalgar; 7. E. Hodgson, jun., Sidney.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. T. Chippendale, Charbonnier; 2. T. Whalley, Duke of Lancaster; 3. T. Chippendale, Albion; 4. J. Birtwistle, Surpass; 5. T. Chippendale, Paganini; 6. E. Hodgson, sen., Old Dutch; 7. J. Baron, Lustre de Beauty.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. T. Chippendale, Beinfait; 2. T. Chippendale, Duc de Bordeaux; 3. W. Birtwistle, La Belle Narene; 4. A. Bentley, Violet Winner; 5. E. Hodgson, sen., Unknown; 6. J. Baron, Ambassador; 7. J. Birtwistle, Maitre Partout.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. T. Chippendale, Alexander Magnus; 2. T. Chippendale, Camarine; 3. T. Chippendale, Violet Wallers; 4. T. Chippendale, China Violet; 5. T. Whalley, Gadsby's Magnificent; 6. T. Chippendale, Baguet; 7. N. Hodson, jun., La Belle Narene.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Compte de Vergennes; 2. T. Chippendale, La Belle Nannette; 3. N. Hodson, jun., Newcastle; 4. T. Livsey, Hero of the Nile; 5. T. Chippendale, Lady Crewe; 6. I. Lawrison, Walworth; 7. R. Housman, Dolittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. T. Chippendale, Unique; 2. I. Lawrison, Rose Vesta; 3. R. Housman, La Vandycken; 4. T. Chippendale, Alexander du Roi; 5. T. Chippendale, Lady Crewe; 6. R. Housman, Triomphe Royale; 7. T. Chippendale, Rose Hebe.

*Breeders*.—T. Chippendale, Charbonnier (biz.); T. Whalley, Sable King (byb.); T. Chippendale, Kate Connor (rose).

*Sels*.—I. Moorhouse, Min d'Or; A. Bentley, White Flag.

*Doubles*.—A. Bentley, Double Biz.; T. Chippendale, Double Rose.

## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## DESCRIPTION OF NEW AND GOOD TULIPS.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

WE now purpose noticing a few of the new flowers that engaged our fancy during the tulip season, in continuation of our remarks in the July number.

In byblœmens, we may briefly allude to Grace Darling (Gibbons'); the flower was certainly not in quite so fine character as we had previously seen it, being much heavier flamed; still it must be seen to be appreciated, and is "a flower amongst a hundred."

Van Amburg (Gibbons') is a flame, of good form, and was placed early in the class, at Derby. It is a variety which requires considerable bleaching, being creamy on its first opening, but becomes perfectly white and clean; the beam is heavy, but rather pale in colour. It is quite in a new style, and will be an acquisition. One of the most striking byblœmens we have seen this season, in a feathered state, was Sancta Sophia, extremely like a perfect and superb Washington; it has been doubted whether it is not a fine strain of that variety. It is, however, very constant, and on the principle "that a good horse is a good colour," will be valued, whatever it may prove. A fit companion to the above is Sable Monarch (Gibbons'), a fine massive flower, perfectly clean, with a deep and intense feather, nearly approaching to Lawrence's Friend in this respect, but apparently more certain in its markings; it is rather low in growth, and appears adapted for the second row. At Derby, we also saw a fine feathered byblœmen, called Rose of Sharon; which we understand is

now altered to Midland Beauty. We must here again deprecate the alteration of names; after a flower has once won at an exhibition, and a designation attached to it, that name, *however absurd*, ought still to remain; otherwise distant florists are apt to be misled, and we are quite sure it makes sadly against the sale of the variety. At the same place, Great Western was a most conspicuous feathered bybløemen. It was a noble flower, with the drawback, however, of stained stamens. This will most certainly tell against the finest marked variety grown; and in accordance with this idea, we observe that the question usually put now is not *whether the cup is pure*, as that is taken for granted by every one who has the least pretension to floricultural knowledge, but *whether the stamens are clean*. If stated to be stained, the information is received with an ominous shake of the head, as if the querist were inclined to think that its character was anything but favourable.

Amongst new and delicate feathered bybløemens, we may notice Mrs. Sherwin, bloomed from a small root, raised from seed, near Nottingham. This flower is "purity personified," as well as its perfection of shape being quite in accordance with the *Hardy standard*; which standard, by the by, will be adopted by all the floricultural societies in the kingdom, taking its stand, as it does, on scientific and incontrovertible principles. We must not, however, forget to state that the feathering of the above-named tulip is delicate, being of a beautiful lilac tinge; altogether it is one amongst the many fine flowers that we have seen this season, and will be grown in the most select collections.

Queen of Violets is a most singular and strongly marked flamed bybløemen; the cup is good, the feathering intensely black, and the flame, which is a beautiful dark purple, meeting it. We saw it this season first-rate in every respect, save a certain indistinctness at the base, a cloudiness, which at that time was certainly a point against it. We are told,

however, that it will come perfectly pure, and of this we make no doubt, as we are quite certain that different soils affect in various degrees the purity of the base.

Queen Phillippa is also a new Nottingham flower, broken this season, equally good with Queen Charlotte, though in a new style, and will be found a great acquisition; its cup is better, and the exterior of the flower appears to greater advantage than many others, being bright, and attractive.

An old variety, which should be grown by every one, is an Incomparable, called *par excellence* Vorhelm's. It was a most perfect flower, feathered, when young, with rosy purple, which, as the flower aged, became more intense in colour. The bulb which had produced this flower, for many years had bloomed with eight petals; in order to counteract this monstrosity of growth, last season it was allowed to perfect a head of seed, which had the expected effect, as this season it came in splendid character.

Sarah Ann (Allen's), a flamed byblœmen of first-rate excellence, in very few hands at present, but shown in extra character by Mr. Hardy, of Warrington. We should be glad to learn from Mr. Allen what it was raised from, whether the seed was impregnated or not, and whether he has stock to part with. Any information of this kind will be very interesting to that portion of our readers who delight in this beautiful flower.

As we gave a list of bizarres, of fine show character, which might be bought at a reasonable rate, so we now conclude this notice by naming a few byblœmens which ought to be in every collection, and which, from their reasonable price, are well adapted for those commencing the fancy.

#### FEATHERED BYBLŒMENS.

*Ambassador de Holland*.—Short cup, occasionally breaks in the feather.

*Lilliard*.—One of the Incomparables, synonymous with Surpass Bienfait, a beautiful flower when in character.

*Black Baguet* (Norwich variety).—A steady flower, slightly too long, and the anthers are thin and meagre, but it is well marked.

*Beauty* (Buckley's).—A Lancashire flower. The fine strain is very beautiful.

*Royal George* (Jeffries').—A very noble flower when well grown.

*Friend* (Lawrence's).—As near black and white as may be, fine cup, and a most attractive flower on a bed.

#### FLAMED BYBLOEMENS.

*Transparent Noir*.—In the style of Queen Charlotte; beautiful.

*Princess Royal*.—Very clean and steady; a most desirable sort.

*Countess of Harrington*.—Shorter in the cup than the preceding; a distinct and good sort.

*Violet Alexander*.—Rather long, but beautifully marked and pure; a fine flower for exhibition.

*Queen Charlotte*.—An especial favourite; very pure, and very distinct and fine.

*Criterion*.—The interior of this fine flower is remarkable for its great purity, being of ivory whiteness, and the marking is most regular and beautiful.

## ON TRAINING THE RED & WHITE CURRANT TREES AS "FRUIT PILLARS," OR "EN PYRAMIDE."

BY MR. L. HALL.

AGREEABLY to your request, I forward the plan which I have adopted through a series of years, in training my currant trees, which have excited the admiration of all who have seen them.

I may here premise that my plants are from eight to twelve feet high, from five to six feet round at the lower part, and form, when covered with ripe fruit, the most beautiful objects imaginable.

Those persons intending to grow currants after my plan, may either plant the cuttings themselves, or obtain suitable plants from a nurseryman, which, if carefully attended to, will, perhaps, make a leader of eighteen or twenty inches the first season. This must be encouraged by nipping off the ends of the side shoots in May, by which means the current of



the sap is checked in that direction, and all the energies of the plant turned towards the elongation of the stem. The system of very slightly shortening the branches in May, will not only render the plant productive, by inducing the formation of bloom buds, but will, as before observed, greatly assist in making the requisite length of shoot. In order to retain the tree in proper shape, some stout larch stakes must be procured, with the bark on, about ten feet high; these should be pointed, and then charred, or burned, about the length of two feet, which will render the part inserted in the ground comparatively proof against decay. To these the plants must be carefully tied; for which purpose strong metallic wire will be found the most suitable. As a proof of the rapidity with which one of these "fruit columns" may be brought into a bearing state, I may here say, that I have had them seven feet in height in three years, and full of fine fruit from the top to the bottom. Should the shoots up the stem get too thick, which is sometimes the case, the branches may be cut away in the autumn, taking care that it is done cleanly, with a sharp knife; by this means, light and air, so essential to the production of good and ripe fruit, is effectually secured. I have not tried the black currant, but purpose making that the subject of future experiment, as, from its style of fruiting, I suppose it will require different treatment.

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### COMPARATIVE MERITS OF VARIOUS PEAS.

HAVING purchased many new varieties of peas, last season I was induced, in order to test their various excellences against some older sorts, to sow a given number on a south border, the soil being of good quality. I put them in rows, nine feet apart; and having made memoranda of their periods of ripening, &c. I venture to lay them before the readers of the

*Midland Florist*, being satisfied that experiments of this kind, recorded in your practical work, are calculated to be of service to the readers, and particularly instructive to the holders of small gardens, who have not the space to make similar experiments.

WILLIAM HOPEWELL.

*Shipley Gardens, Derbyshire.*

<i>Name.</i>	<i>When sown</i>	<i>When fit for Table.</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>General Remarks.</i>
	Mar.		Ft.	
Early Emperor (Warner's) .....	2	June 19	3	Pod rather short, but well filled, very early, and good bearer.
Ringwood Marrow (Clark's) .....	2	June 26	4	A great bearer, pod good size, a profitable early pea.
Grotto (Shilling's) .....	2	June 29	4	A fine flavoured sort, pods well filled, and a great bearer.
New Early Green Marrow (Warner's) .....	2	July 3	5	Pod good, well filled, beautiful glossy green, quite distinct, ought to be in every garden.
Champion of England (Fairbeard's) .....	2	July 5	5	This is decidedly one of the best peas in cultivation; the pod is of large size, filled to bursting with fine peas, of delicious flavour.
Imperial (Bedman's) ..	2	July 7	3	A very prolific and good variety.
Victory (Flack's) .....	2	July 9	3	Fine pod, and good flavour; requires sowing thin, and the soil must be rich.
Dwarf Green Marrow (Knight's) .....	2	July 11	3	A most excellent variety, the pod being large and well filled, and the flavour very superior.
Queen of Dwarfs (Waite's) .....	2	July 12	1	This is the best dwarf pea, the pod is very large, and well filled with large peas; but it cannot be compared with any of the preceding, for profit.

## ESSAY ON THE CARNATION.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

[Continued from page 310.]

As the flower expands, a collar of pasteboard is placed under the guard-leaves, and the careful florist will assist his bloom as it advances, extracting all self, muddy, or misshapen petals, and arranging the others to his mind. Within these few years, Rowland's metallic wire has come much into use, and by means of it each flower may be kept exactly in the place the grower wishes, without any possibility of its being

removed by the wind; and he may have several flowers, when fully blown, under a hand-glass, without their chafing against each other.

The flowers which are to be retained any length of time, must, of course, be shaded from the sun and rain. This is done in various ways: those who have the convenience of a tulip shed remove the pots beneath the awning; others have circular caps of paper, which are oiled or painted, a wooden socket passes through the centre, and is slipped down the stick, a small nail keeping it at the required height; a more simple method still is a small board, with a hole on one side for the stick to pass through. These are in general use, but there is also the box, about five inches square and three inches deep, glazed at the top with a single piece of glass, and having a brass loop, with a screw, to adjust it at any height on the stick; a few turns of the screw will retain the box at its proper distance over the flowers, without any chance of its slipping down upon them. At this stage of their growth they are exposed to the attacks of the ant, or pismire, and the earwig: the latter is very destructive to the blooms, eating away the bottom of the petals. They may be caught by placing the bowls of tobacco pipes on the tops of the sticks; but the pipes must not have been smoked with, as the smell of tobacco is very offensive to them. Crabs' claws are a very good substitute; and the dried hollow stalks of beans, into which they will retreat, when laid on the surface of the pots, may be examined every morning, and the enemy destroyed. To destroy the ants their track must be watched till the nest is discovered, when a dose of boiling water will generally be found sufficient.

The flowers having, through the vigilance of the grower, escaped the various vicissitudes to which they are liable from the time they are planted out to the period of perfecting their bloom, the florist feels a conscious pride in exhibiting their beauties to his various visitors; and names and titles are brought forward

in rapid succession—kings and queens, dukes and duchesses, squires and councillors, prophets and lord chancellors, Romans and philosophers, actresses and prime ministers, missionaries and doctors, sweethearts and soldiers, archbishops and racers, all pass before you in review ; in fact, a florist's vocabulary seems to have no end. He descants on their various perfections, and praises their shape and colour, till he fancies himself invincible, though perhaps he may puff, and say he has no chance. The exhibition day arrives, and all his trouble and care is rewarded, provided a few of his favourite flowers are successful.

And here it will be proper to observe, that it is by no means certain that the most careful or the most extensive grower will excel at an exhibition, unless he either is a good dresser of a flower himself, or gets some one else to do the needful for him. This arranging the petals, or, as it is technically called, dressing, is an art of considerable nicety, and a grower who is an adept at preparing his flowers for the stage, has a much better chance of obtaining the prize than his neighbour who cannot "dress," even should he be otherwise an inferior grower.

Whilst on the subject of dressing, I may just observe, that many tricks are played with flowers for exhibition, which are extremely reprehensible ; and where the various plans are adopted, let them be viewed in what light they may, or whatever false gloss may be put on such proceedings, they amount to nothing less than downright cheating, and are a dead robbery of the fair exhibiter.

There have been plenty of instances, where a pod has burst, of putting the flower into a fresh one. I well recollect an instance of a first pan of carnations, at an exhibition in one of the midland counties, in which one of the pods was split to the bottom, and consequently ought to have been disqualified ; but by matching the pod with a piece of green silk, and tying it round close up to the petals, it escaped the scrutiny

of the judges. At another time I have seen bad leaves taken out, and good ones substituted, a pellet of cotton wool being crammed down, to keep them in their places. But this is also done in a much neater way, by drawing the petal down into the pod with a piece of green silk. A most respectable nurseryman and florist, not a long time ago, informed me that he had seen a carnation composed of petals taken from other flowers, not one of which belonged to the pod in which they were put, but were the best that could be selected from perhaps a dozen flowers. The result was, an unbeatable flower.

In dressing carnations, it is considered fair to remove what leaves you choose, and, with a pair of tweezers, to put them in the best and most regular form, the petals imbricating each other, with a few short ones in the centre, forming the crown; but extremely wrong to make any addition thereto from other flowers. But, to the credit of this society, and which, no doubt, has tended to promote the harmony and unanimity which has so long prevailed amongst us, no instance of this reprehensible system has come under my observation, during the twelve years I have been connected with it.

We must now retrace our steps; and I must direct your attention to the time when the pod bursts sufficiently to enable the colour to be distinguished. If not "run," as it is termed, or the flower is not a self, and the grass sufficiently long, I commence layering. Some defer it to a later period; but where there is a large stock to operate upon, it is best to take time by the forelock: at all events, I am an advocate for early work.

Some will tell you that they are more apt to spindle; but if they had not been layered, I imagine they would have done so; and I should also think that the very act of cutting would operate as a check; for the formation of roots must necessarily require a certain supply of sap; and, at all events, the layers should be removed when well rooted; for after they have

got a large quantity of fibres, they may be obtaining sustenance from their own roots as well as the parent plant; and thus, having a double supply of nourishment, they will then be likely to spindle.

[To be continued.]

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### LAW *VERSUS* FLOWERS.

A SUBSCRIBER to your *creamy* and economical little work, the *Midland Florist*, from its very commencement, observing in the last number a very cautious question from Friend John Pollard, as to the *power* of his landlord over him, in the removal of any *floral* property, I thought the moment opportune to detail my own case, which I trust will be a *beacon* to all my brother amateurs; who will, no doubt, conclude that I have been shown up as a martyr to a conduct that has no parallel for either *grace* or equity: but I will begin my story.

I became the tenant of a very old mansion, under the *verbal* assurance that I might remain as long as I wished. With such a promise, I set to work with my usual energy—laid down turf, got all my various compost, at great labour and expense, and having a rabid mania for the rose family, my excellent and esteemed friend, Mr. Wood, of Maresfield, Sussex, supplied me with about two hundred of the *finest* varieties of standard roses, besides many valuable dwarfs I imported from France.

In two years, this wilderness of a place was the galaxy of beauty and attraction—a positive “Sunday walk,” “to see Mr. Wilson’s rose trees.”

Thus was I riding my hobby with all that *delicious* sentiment and rhapsody only known and felt by gardeners, when, to my utter surprise and indignation, I had warning to quit; and Michaelmas being the period of my surrender, I saw but too evidently my floral property of most descriptions must inevitably be sacrificed, all too vigorous as they were in sap for any removal; and under this idea I wrote to my

landlord, to ask whether he would take my *choice* collection of roses, at a moderate compensation, or at a valuation by any professional gardener.

To my *horror*, the reply I received from this liberal gentleman was, that as the trees were in *his soil*, he *claimed them (!!!)* as the proprietor. I wrote to many legal friends, who, though disgusted with such mal-appropriation, nevertheless said it was *dangerous to remove*—cut them down I could not, as it came under the “*penalty of waste*,” and strange as may be the anomaly, from the moment you receive warning to quit, your *own* FLOWERS pass to your landlord.

The isolated case before Mr. Justice Littledale was *against* me. “Neither is he entitled,” says his lordship, “to remove *flowers* which he had planted, unless by special agreement.”

With such an adverse authority, and being an old sea officer, I thought prudence was the better part of valour, and therefore left my darling trees, and all my “Stilton cheese” compost, to the rapacity of my gracious landlord, who would neither permit the removal nor give me the smallest compensation; and what made things *blacker* still, many of these rose trees were removed to his *own premises (!!!)* after I had *quitted !!!*

If my martyrdom may be a warning to my brother florists, never to risk their stock and labour on *verbal* assurances as to their tenancy, but have all these stipulations in “black and white,” I shall do a public good by this exposé, and they will do well. Although it might be reasonably supposed that my case was out of nature, but being now a retrospective circumstance, and there being the sweet solace of scripture, “Blessed are ye when men persecute you,” I had with these two-fold impressions, forgotten and forgiven; but Friend Pollard’s question has excited me to throw this matter loosely before my floral brethren, that they may see the *ticklish* ground they stand on as to the *power* of their landlords over them.

HARRY WILSON.

*Maritime Villa, Spring Vale, near Ryde.*

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**JOSLING'S ST. ALBAN'S GRAPE.**—This is a most excellent new variety, raised from seed, by Mr. R. Josling, of St. Alban's. Specimens have been forwarded to her Majesty, who very highly approved of the flavour and appearance. We are glad to record in our pages the testimonial of such a judge of fruits as Mr. Robert Thompson, superintendent of the fruit department, in the gardens of the Horticultural Society of London, and we are confident our readers cannot do wrong in purchasing any fruit recommended by him. He says, "It is but seldom that a seedling grape can be obtained, which can be recommended in preference to those which have been long in cultivation; and still more rarely do seedlings possess any of that peculiarly rich flavour which characterizes the Muscats of Alexandria, and the Frontignans. A grape having the high qualities of those just mentioned, and not liable to shank and shrivel, as every gardener is aware that the Frontignans are apt to do, must be a great acquisition, and such the seedling which forms the subject of this notice will undoubtedly prove. The bunch, supported by a strong footstalk, is very long and tapering, with strong diverging shoulders. It is perfectly distinct from any other variety known."

**MYATT'S ELEANOR STRAWBERRY.**—This is a new variety, raised by that eminent cultivator Mr. Joseph Myatt, of Manor Farm, Deptford. To him we are already indebted for several fine varieties of this



favourite and wholesome fruit, amongst which may be enumerated Mammoth, Globe, and British Queen. This last new one bears most profusely, is of excellent flavour, very handsome, and ripens late in the season.



## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

**TULIPS.**—*Truth* (Bromley's), a flamed bizarre, is a very fine sort; as a breeder it is very superior, and when broken, is more constant than Sans Jo, which it resembles more than any thing else. You must also look out for *Pyramid of Egypt* (flamed byblæmen) and *Groom's Juliana* (flamed rose), which I am told is a remarkably fine variety. We are sadly at a loss for information respecting the varieties grown in the neighbourhood of London, and a descriptive catalogue would be acceptable. *Ulysses* is also, I am told, a superior feathered bizarre.

G. W. H.

**PICOTERS.**—*Burroughs's Amy* is a most beautiful light purple edged flower, with good petal and substance, and has been exhibited most successfully this season, having had first class certificates awarded at the Horticultural Society, Royal South London, and Slough open meetings. *Matthews's Eclipse* is also a light purple edged flower; full enough, however, for this part of the country, but the white is pure and the lacing very correct. *Edmonds's Jenny Lind*, like its namesake, is the favourite of the season; it is first-rate in form, substance, and marking. If there is any thing to detract from perfection, it is the ground colour, which is not quite so clear as in *Eclipse*, mentioned above.

**CARNATION.**—*Ariel* (May), a splendid and beautiful rose flake. It obtained the premier prize and first class certificate, at Slough, which is a tolerable criterion of its excellence.

## PELARGONIUMS, OR GERANIUMS.

MANY of our readers possess greenhouses, and though some of these may be small, yet their owners are anxious to have them stocked with the best of every thing within their reach. The geraniums we are about to enumerate may be out of the reach of the artizan or weaver (though we know they will often make great sacrifices to obtain a new plant); they must, therefore, bear them in mind, that when they become lower in price they may obtain them.

*Mount Etna* (Hoyles's).—Very much has been said of this variety. It is most beautiful in colour, the lower petals being bright crimson, the upper ones dark maroon, margined with scarlet. It is very prolific in flowers, the shape of which is tolerably good.

*Ariel* (Foster's).—The form of this beautiful variety is excellent, and well adapted for exhibition. The top petals are marked with a large well formed blotch of deep crimson, the lower ones are a fine pink.

*Competitor* (Beck's).—This is a smooth and well shaped flower. The blotch on the upper petals is very dark, with a crimson margin; the lower petals are purplish rose, with a spot of a deeper tinge on each. It is a sort that will become a great favourite.

*Governor General* (Hoyles's).—Very showy. The form is good. The blotch on the upper petals is of a brownish red, margined with crimson. The lower petals are bright crimson.

*Crusader* (Hoyles's).—This is a first-rate flower; the colour is a rich cherry red, with large and well defined dark spots on the upper petals.



## TREES AND SHRUBS.

AMONGST new and ornamental trees, we may mention the *ROBINIA AUREA* (*The Gold-variegated Acacia*). Grafted standard high, this plant has a most beautiful appearance; the long leaves being richly variegated with deep yellow. The branches are slightly pendulous when young, and at a distance, the plant appears at this time of the year (September) to be covered with long bunches of yellow flowers.

In shrubs, *VIBURNUM MACROCEPHALUM* will be a great addition to our hardy varieties. It has bloomed in the garden of the Horticultural Society, and the description given by Mr. Fortune we cannot do better than quote. It is as follows:—"This noble species was found in the gardens of the rich, in the north of China, and will probably prove perfectly hardy in England. There is a tree of it in a garden on the island of Chusan, at least twenty feet high, which, in the month of May, is covered with its snow-white blossoms. When grafted, it blooms on small plants, in pots, and is not unlike a white hydrangia, by which name it is known amongst the Chinese." It is further stated that the flowers grow in large compound cymes, which are as much as eight inches in diameter; not, however, globose, like those of the Guelder rose, but rather pyramidal. Each flower is full an inch and three-eighths in diameter, and snow-white.

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### HARDY PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

*PENTSTEMON GORDONII.* (*Gordon's Pentstemon.*)—This is very handsome, and rises from twelve to eighteen inches. The flowers are large, and the most beautiful blue imaginable; they are borne on the upper part of the stem, issuing from the axils of the leaves. It was introduced in 1846, from the Rocky Mountains, America.

*PHLOX EXQUISITA.* (*The Exquisite Phlox, or Lych-nidea.*)—Our readers are all, most probably, fond of this beautiful tribe, one or other of which enliven our gardens from early spring, when the *Phlox verna*, *Phlox verna cœrulescens*, and *Phlox divaricata*, first give intimation of the advance of the season, and are forerunners of the beautiful varieties which now are to be obtained from every extensive plant grower. The one alluded to at the head of this notice, has

come under our observation this summer; it is of good shape, and trusses well; the flowers are white, with a dark purple eye, and a slight dash of pale pink up the centre of each petal. We are persuaded it will become a great favourite.

**LINARIA POISSONII.** (*Poissonii's Toad Flax*).—A very singular and pretty herbaceous plant. Rises about eighteen inches to two feet high. The flowers are borne in whorls upon the stem, and are labiate, with very elongated spues.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

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### ARAUCARIA IMBRICATA.

(*The Imbricate-leaved Araucaria, or Chili Pine.*)

HAVING paid a visit to the Birmingham Botanic Garden, on the 15th of July last, amongst other things which particularly took our fancy, was a fine specimen of this noble tree, that had stood the severity of the past winter perfectly unharmed; in fact, all the coniferæ, or cone-bearing trees, appeared to be in a flourishing state. This plant is about ten or eleven feet in height, feathered with branches to the ground, and we are certain that the most indifferent spectator would be immediately struck with the singularity and beauty of its appearance. Though the tree is a native of South America, it is sufficiently hardy to bear the climate of Great Britain, and will grow in any situation where the Cedar of Lebanon will flourish. In its native country it attains a great height, sometimes rising to one hundred and fifty feet.

It is evergreen, and so singularly beautiful, that we should consider no gentleman's demesne complete

without specimens of it being planted ; and in fact, we think that all public parks, cemeteries, &c., ought to have one or more, that the visitors might be gratified with a sight of it, and thus obtain some knowledge of so magnificent a tree.

We wish some public spirited individual would plant a good specimen in our beautiful cemetery ; we are sure it would be highly appreciated.

Having said thus much, we think a short description of its properties and uses will be interesting to our readers, and we give the following, from *Pæpping's Travels in the Peruvian Andes*, as quoted in the *Companion to the Botanical Magazine* :—

“ When we arrived at the first araucarias, the sun had just set ; still some time remained for their examination. What first struck our attention were the thick roots of these trees, which lie spread over the stony and nearly naked soil, like gigantic serpents, two or three feet in thickness ; they are clothed with a rough bark, similar to that which invests the lofty pillar-like trunks, of from fifty to a hundred feet in height. The crown of foliage occupies only about the upper quarter of the stem, and resembles a large depressed cone. The lower branches, eight or twelve in number, form a circle round the trunk ; they diminish till there are but four or six in a ring, and are of most regular formation, all spreading out horizontally, and bending upwards only at their tips. They are thickly invested with leaves, which cover them like scales, and are sharp pointed, above an inch broad, and of such a hard and woody texture, that it requires a sharp knife to sever them from the parent branch. The general aspect of the araucaria is most striking and peculiar, though it undeniably bears a strong family likeness to the pines of our country. The fruit, placed at the ends of the boughs, are of regular globular form, *as large as a man's head* ; and each consists of beautifully imbricated scales, that cover the seeds, which are the most important part of this truly noble tree. The Indians consider the fruit a very nourishing food. They eat it raw, as well as boiled and roasted ; and they distil from it a kind of spirituous liquor. A single fruit or head contains between two and three hundred kernels, and there are frequently twenty or thirty fruits on one stem ; and as even an hearty eater amongst the Indians, except he should be wholly deprived of every other sustenance, cannot consume more than two hundred nuts in a day, it is obvious that eighteen araucarias will maintain a single person for a whole year.

## LAYERING.

MANY plants, when kept in a moist atmosphere, having a tendency to throw out roots from their joints, the idea of making layers must have very early occurred to gardeners. When the roots are thrown out naturally wherever a joint of the shoot touches the moist earth (as is the case with most of the kinds of verberna, which only require pegging down to make them form new plants), layers differ very little from runners; but layers, properly so called, are when the art of the gardener has been employed to make plants throw out roots when they would not have done so naturally. The most common method of doing this is to cut half through, and slit upwards, a shoot from a growing plant, putting a bit of twig or potsherd between the separated parts (we give the shoot a slight twist, which will equally prevent the parts from joining together again), and then to peg down the shoot, so as to bury the divided joint in the earth; when the returning sap, arrested in its progress to the main root, will accumulate at the joint, to which it will afford such abundance of nourishment as to induce it to throw out a mass of fibrous roots, and thus to convert the shoot beyond it into a new plant, which may be separated from the parent, and transplanted. The only art required in layering is to contrive the most effectual means of interrupting the returning sap, so as to produce as great an accumulation of it as possible at the joint from which the roots are to be produced. For this purpose, sometimes, instead of cutting the branch half through, a ring of bark is removed below the joint, care being taken that the knife does not penetrate into the wood; and at others, a wire is twisted firmly round the shoot, so as to pinch in the bark; or a knife or other sharp instrument is passed through the branch several times in different directions: in short, any thing that wounds or injures the shoot, so as to throw an impediment in the way of the returning sap, and yet not to prevent the

passage of the sap that is ascending, will suffice. Layering is a very common mode of propagating plants; and in nurseries, often every shoot of a tree or shrub is thus wounded and pegged down. In this case the central root is called a stool, from the verb *to stole*, which signifies the power which most deciduous trees possess of sending up new stems from the collar of their roots, when cut down. The seasons for performing the operation of layering are during the months of February and March, before the new sap begins to rise, or in June or July, after all the summer supply of ascending sap has risen; as at these seasons there is no danger of injuring the tree by occasioning an overflow of the ascending sap, which sometimes takes place when the tree is wounded while the sap is in active motion. In most cases the layers are left on twelve months, and in many two years, before they are divided from the parent plant, in order that they may be sufficiently supplied with roots. In nurseries, the ground is generally prepared round each stool by digging, and sometimes by manuring; and the gardener piques himself on laying down the branches neatly, so as to form a radiated circle round the stool, with the ends rising all round about the same height.—*Gardener's Gazette*.

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### MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA.

THIS splendid plant received the title of *Magnolia* from Plumier, who so named it in honour of Pierre Magnol, prefect of the botanic garden at Montpellier, and author of several works on plants. Sir John Collison is thought to have reared the first plant of this kind in England, at Exmouth, Devonshire, sometime prior to 1737. It was unknown to Mr. Miller, in 1724, when he published the first edition of his *Gardener's and Florist's Dictionary*; but in a later edition, he mentions that there were a great many plants in England prior to 1739, but the severe winter of

that year destroyed most of the young ones. The Swamp Magnolia (glaucæ) was the species of this plant first known in England, and was one of the rare exotic shrubs growing in 1688, in the episcopal garden at Fulham, where it was sent by Banister, to Bishop Compton. It is found in low swampy ground, in North America, but not more northerly than Pennsylvania. It is known in America by the name of White Laurel, Swamp Sassafras; but is more generally called the Beaver Tree, because the root is the most favourite food of the beaver, and is therefore employed to catch these animals. The perfume of this plant resembles that of the lily of the valley, with a mixture of aromatic odour; and its fragrance is so great, that the trees may be discovered at the distance of three quarters of a mile, by the scent of the blossoms, particularly towards the close of the day. The flowers of this species of Magnolia are similar to those of the grandiflora. They consist of eight petals, but are not more than three or four inches over. The bark of the Swamp Magnolia, as well as the fruit and the young wood, form one of the American domestic medicines.—*Phillips's Sylva Flor.*

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## REVIEW.

THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY VOLUME. By G. W. Johnson. London: Simpkin and Marshall. Winchester: H. Woolridge, High-street.

WE are always glad to notice these little volumes, as they bear evidence of much laborious research into the subjects of which they treat.

We have just received the eighth volume, "On the Strawberry," by the editor, assisted by Mr. Robert Reid, gardener to Mrs. Clarke, Noblesthorpe Hall, near Barnsley.

On carefully perusing it, we can truly say, that the information, conveyed in a pleasing and popular style,



is most excellent. We have the following subjects, in connection with this delightful fruit, entered into:— Its history, botanical characters, chemical analysis, the various varieties, the different methods of propagation, the best soils, the most suitable situations, and the most appropriate manures, are here discussed in detail; the cultivation in the forcing house, as well as in the open air; and lastly, the diseases to which they are liable, and the insects which are injurious to them.

To those of our readers who wish to know *all* that is at present ascertained relative to the strawberry, we would earnestly recommend the work.

### Part III.

#### QUERIES.



I see there is some difference in pruning currant trees. An old man in my neighbourhood cuts them in with a pair of shears. Is such a rough mode of pruning proper? An answer in your next number will oblige yours, &c.

H. A.

Having an orchard, which, though tolerably productive, does not appear to contain good kinds of trees, I am anxious to know whether the heads can be re-grafted, and what will be the best sorts.

Aylesbury.

WM. MASON.

Will you state, in an early number, which is the best plan to break or rectify tulips? I have many breeders, *but they continue breeders still*. If you, or any of your correspondents, can render me any assistance in this matter, I shall be most greatly obliged.

Preston.

A TULIP FANCIER.

What is the Deodar cedar? Is it evergreen or deciduous, hardy or otherwise?

CANTAB.

I have a small vinery, which I try to manage, for my own amusement, but am sorry to say that I only partially succeed. Will you, in your forthcoming volume, give occasional hints as to vine culture.

Birmingham.

WM. FOTHERGILL.

Can grapes be cultivated to advantage out of doors, so far north as Nottingham? If so, what are the most proper sorts for the purpose?

R. S.

I am a great admirer of the lilac. I understand, of late, there has been several new ones introduced, and I am anxious to add them to my collection. I make no doubt a list of this beautiful tribe will be acceptable to others of your readers besides myself.

I am yours, &c.

Worcester.

J. W.

Will you kindly inform me which are the most beautiful drooping trees? I am desirous of planting a weeping tree over a grave, and I also want several to plant in my grounds. As a nurseryman I should suppose you will be able to give me the requisite information.

Bewdley.

H. I.

What is the difference between the Globe and the Jerusalem Artichokes? are they worth cultivating in a small garden? I do not know either of them, but having heard much, last season, about the latter being a substitute for potatoes, I should be glad, if they are profitable, to find room for them. An answer in your next number will oblige

Arnold.

A COTTAGER.

Can you give any information as to the success of cottage allotments? Do you think they are calculated to be a *panacea* for the poverty which unfortunately prevails around? Has it ever been tried near Nottingham, and with what success? and can you say whether the gentry in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, are favourable to the allotment system, or not? I am anxious to call the attention of your readers to this subject, as I think it would be well if some portion of your pages were occasionally devoted to it.

JAMES WILLIS.

I have a quantity of foreign seeds, principally from America: I should be glad to know whether I had better sow them this autumn, or defer it till spring. A reply in your next number will oblige

WM. SMITH.

What are the best yellow roses in cultivation? Are they double or single? difficult to grow, or not? Are there any climbers calculated to cover a trellis? Is there such a thing as a yellow moss rose? Can you tell me all about it? I am a young fancier.

R. W.

HAND CORN MILL.—Can you, or any of your correspondents, give me information where a mill of the above description can be obtained? whether it is easily worked by one or two people? and whether it would answer for several cottagers, who grow about a rood of wheat each, to club together and purchase one? A reply will oblige

A LABOURER.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[If Mr. Wood would mention half-a-dozen of the best carnations and picotees in each class, grown in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, he would lay me under a great obligation. To be satisfactory here, they should have at least three tiers of petals and a well filled crown; which is not the case with many bought by—INVESTIGATOR—*Northumberland*.]

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—Easom's Admiral Curzon, Elliott's Duke of Sutherland, Martin's Splendid, Lightbody's Mr. Groom, Colcut's Juba, and Harvey's Conqueror.

*Crimson Bizarres*.—Ely's Lord Milton, Slater's Gladiator, Paul Pry, Mansley's Robert Burns, Wallis's Young Earl Grey, and Marris's Thomas Hood.

*Rose Flakes*.—Ely's Lovely Ann, Maltby's Mrs. Hughes, Ely's Lady Ely, Barrenger's Apollo, Hudson's Lady Flora, and Tomlyn's Brisies.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—Wilson's William IV., Willmer's Hero of Middlesex, Greasley's Mary Ann, Weldon's Earl of Litchfield, Beauty of Brighouse, and Ely's King of Scarlets.

*Purple Flakes*.—Pollard's First-rate, Taylor's Lord Byron, Brabbin's Squire Meynell, Ely's Mango, Ely's John Wright, and Mansley's Beauty of Woodhouse.

**RED PICOTEES**.—*Light*.—Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan, Barrenger's Unique, Matthews's Ne plus ultra.—*Heavy*.—Jessop's Sir W. Middleton, Sharp's Duke of Wellington, Robinson's Duke of Wellington.

**PURPLE PICOTEES**.—*Light*.—Matthews's Enchantress, Marris's Lady Sale, Burroughs's Duke of Newcastle.—*Heavy*.—Wood's Princess Alice, Sharp's Invincible, Dickson's Trip to Cambridge.

**ROSE PICOTEES**.—*Light*.—Barnard's Mrs. Barnard, Lady Alice Peel, Dickson's Sophia.—*Heavy*.—Green's Victoria, Willmer's Princess Royal, Gatliff's Proconsul.

[If the editor of the *Midland Florist* would give the names of half-a-dozen of the best and heaviest sorts of gooseberries grown at Nottingham, and their probable prices, he would confer a favour on—A LOVER OF A GOOD AND LARGE GOOSEBERRY.]

RED.	GREEN,	WHITE.	YELLOW.
London	Thumper	Coppice Lass	Lord Ranccliffe
Wonderful	Queen Victoria	Freedom	Leader
Slaughterman	Turnout	Eagle	Railway
Old England	Ince Pet	Foley	Catherina
Companion	Random Green	Tally-ho	Dublin
King Cole	Overall	Lady Leicester	Pilot

**PINKS.**—A CONSTANT READER.—*Dark.*—Headley's Duke of Northumberland, Bunkell's Queen Victoria, Jones's Huntsman, Kirtland's Lord Valentia, Cant's Criterion, Hand's Pilot.—*Red.*—Fairbarn's Bob Lawrence, Kirtland's Gaylad, Lee's Joseph Sturge, Marris's Rosea elegans, Hodge's Tom Thumb, Hasting's Tom Long.—*Black and White.*—Marris's Lucretia (*this will occasionally come purple laced*), Kay's Mary, Pearson's Purity, Beauty of Blackburn, Milman's Zillah, White Rose.—We will think of his suggestion.

**J. H. C.**—As we presume the frost only is required to be excluded from the greenhouse, a temperature of from forty-two to forty-five degrees is sufficient.

**THE TULIP ALLEN'S SARAH ANN.**—Since I staged this tulip at the Warrington exhibition, information has reached me which proves this variety to be one of the Chellaston seedlings. It seems to have been procured from Gibbons at a time when he was not so well acquainted with the merits of his seedlings as he now is; and as it is frequently happening with others, so it may be that this seedling is now grown by several persons under different names. The manner in which the Chellaston seedlings have been let out to the public is now creating quite as much confusion as that which attends the growth of Clarke's, and their value is consequently much depreciated.

*Warrington.*

G. W. HARDY.

I can assure your correspondent, "Alexander," that I have sown seed from run carnations repeatedly, and do not find a greater proportion of selfs than I have had from other seed. In particular, I have raised some very good flowers from Woodhead's Spitfire and Walmsley's William IV., both in a run or self state. I do not think it of the least consequence, whether or not, as far as my experience of nearly half a century goes.

*Leigh, Rutlandshire.*

J. BANTON.

**CHALMORE KIDNEY POTATO.**—This variety was sold out by Messrs. Tyso, of Wallingford, and is now a very prolific and good sort—second early. The lists of new varieties will be given as soon as possible.

**ARISTOLOCHIA SIPHO** (*The Tube Birthwort*) is a hardy climber the flowers are rather inconspicuous, but the foliage is large and ornamental, and is well adapted for covering a trellis. Near Stratford-on-Avon, we have seen the side of a large house completely clothed with it.

**BREEDER TULIPS WITH STAINED STAMENS OR FILAMENTS.**—This is a decided defect, and the varieties which are thus disfigured will doubtless be superseded. Entire purity is most certainly requisite.

**BEST PEAS.**—R. M. will find some information suitable for him in this month's number. The subject will not be lost sight of.

**ROSES.**—An Amateur, whose roses had formed fine shoots, which were blown out by the wind, will prevent a recurrence of this disaster, by fastening a piece of stick, as thick as the middle finger, and eighteen inches long, to the stock, immediately below the bud; this must be done by two ligatures, allowing about nine inches of the stick to rise above the top of the stock. To this the young shoot may be tied.

**IGNORAMUS** will find that Mr. Hall has given the requisite information.

**DAHLIAS.**—I. O.—We have preserved them stored in sand, in a dry cellar. The roots, when thoroughly dry, should have their numbers stamped on leaden tallies, which may be attached by metallic wire. They should be occasionally examined during the winter, and any decayed parts cut away, and the incision exposed to the air.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

### FOR OCTOBER.



**THE potato crop** will, during this month, be in course of storing; as the disease has appeared in some situations, it will be advisable carefully to notice the tubers as they are taken up, separating those which appear at all tainted. By no means put them in large heaps, if it can be avoided.

Put out *lettuce plants* in sheltered situations, as they get large enough. *Cabbages* may also be planted where they are to remain; and the weakest from the seed bed should be transplanted. This checks the growth, and renders the plants more hardy for the winter; it also makes them more stocky and stiff.

The *onions* which have been sown in drills, should be kept constantly stirred between the rows, with small hand hoes.

*Carrots* and *parsnips* should be got up, and stored in dry cellars. *Red beet* also should be treated in the same way. It is requisite they should be put away when quite dry, and they are best when covered with sand.

*Cauliflower plants* may be pricked out in warm or sheltered situations, or in sod pits, or frames.

*Early Warwick peas* should be sown towards the latter end of the month, where it is thought worth while to run the risk for a crop.

Amongst fruit trees, *currants* and *gooseberries* may be pruned, and if the propagation of the sorts is desired, cuttings may be

put in. *Black currants* should not have the shoots shortened; the bushes will require the branches thinning out. As soon as the leaves are off, prune and train wall trees or espaliers. It is better to do it now, if there is nothing more pressing. All hardy trees may be transplanted; deciduous, or those which drop their leaves, will remove with safety, during open weather, through the winter. In transplanting, take care that the trees are not set too deep; one great cause of their not thriving is putting them in below the "collar," or where the stem swells, just above the root. In removing large trees, mind that the roots are not mangled and bruised; every fibre is of consequence, and the well being of the plant depends in a great measure on the abundance of these small shoots.

In the flower garden, most bulbs may be planted now; and where large patches of *jonquils*, *snowdrops*, &c. require dividing, it should be done immediately, before they have emitted much root.

Hardy annuals, for blooming in early spring, such as *Escholtzia nemophylla*, *erysimum*, *candytuft*, &c. should be sown; and herbaceous plants may be parted with success, though we prefer the spring for this operation.

*Carnations*, if not all potted or planted out, should be done directly. They should be sheltered from heavy rains; the lights from the hot-bed frames, or an awning of calico, answer the purpose well. More danger is to be apprehended from excess of moisture, than the reverse. Finish planting out *pinks* and *pansies*, that they may get well established before winter; and take care that the earth is drawn round the stems of the *dahlias*, to preserve the tubers from sudden frost. In the beginning of the month make diligent preparation for getting in *tulips*. Offsets may be planted forthwith; they are much safer in than out. If the soil of which the best bed is composed is too heavy, a dressing of lime will be highly beneficial, but it must be applied at least a month beforehand. Look over the stock of bulbs, and arrange them as much as possible, according to their heights—the tallest in the centre row, the shortest on the outside, nearest the path; endeavour to grow duplicates of the first, second, and third rows, that the sorts on each side of the middle row may correspond.

Look to seedling *polyanthuses* and *auriculas*; keep them free from slugs, and see that they are not rooted out by worms.

In the greenhouse all plants ought to be in their winter quarters. *Verbenas* and *scarlet geraniums*, from the open borders, or any other plant which it is advisable to preserve, may be potted, previously shortening the tops. We should like some, or any of our readers to plant their *hyacinths* in clean fresh moss; we have grown them very fine that way. Do not close the house, whilst the weather is open, and keep the temperature in winter between forty and forty-four degrees.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

—◆—  
TULIP SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. Greasley, Sandiacre, May 28. The prizes were adjudged as follows, by Mr. J. Oldham, of Beeston :—

**First pan,** J. Hazeldine, Royal Sovereign, Captain White, Gibbons's Seedling, La Bon Amie, Lady Crewe, Unique; **second pan,** J. Atkin, jun. Royal Sovereign, Captain White, Washington, Queen Charlotte, Sherwood Rose, Commelius.

**Feathered Bizarres.**—Premier, J. Atkin, jun. Platoff; 1. T. Greasley, Grand Duke; 2. T. Greasley, Sultana; 3. J. Atkin, sen. Magnum Bonum; 4. J. Atkin, sen. Sovereign; 5. J. Hazeldine, Victory; 6. T. Greasley, Sydney Smith.

**Flamed Bizarres.**—Premier, J. Hazeldine, Captain White; 1. A. Towle, Capt. White; 2. J. Dalley, Milton; 3. J. Dalley, Juliet; 4. J. Atkin, sen. Earl of Warwick; 5. A. Towle, Juliet; 6. J. Atkin, jun. Albion.

**Feathered Byblæmens.**—Premier, A. Towle, Liliard; 1. A. Towle, Baguet; 2. J. Atkin, sen. Liliard; 3. T. Greasley, Washington; 4. T. Greasley, Maitre Partout; 5. T. Greasley, Liliard; 6. J. Hazeldine, Gibbons's Seedling.

**Flamed Byblæmens.**—Premier, J. Atkin, sen. Incomparable; 1. J. Atkin, sen. Incomparable; 2. G. Richardson, Roi de Siam; 3. G. Richardson, Violet Walkers; 4. J. Atkin, jun. Baguet; 5. J. Atkin, jun. Princess; 6. T. Greasley, Bienfait.

**Feathered Roses.**—Premier, G. Richardson, Rose Guerrier; 1. J. Atkin, sen. Sherwood Rose; 2. J. Hazeldine, Unknown; 3. J. Atkin, sen. Lady Crewe; 4. J. Atkin, sen. Walworth; 5. T. Greasley, Lord Hill; 6. T. Greasley, Lady Crewe.

**Flamed Roses.**—Premier, J. Dalley, Unique; 1. A. Towle, Unique; 2. T. Greasley, Queen Boadicea; 3. G. Richardson, Rose Ann; 4. J. Atkin, sen. Vesta; 5. J. Dalley, Mrs. Wilmot; 6. T. Greasley, British Queen.

**Selfs.**—Premier, J. Atkin, jun. Amelia; 1. J. Hazeldine, Chellaston Seedling; 2. J. Hazeldine, Gibbons's Seedling; 3. J. Dalley, Chellaston Seedling; 4. J. Dalley, Gibbons's Seedling; 5. J. Atkin, jun. Gibbons's Seedling; 6. J. Atkin, sen. Victory Breeder.

## TULIP MEETING,

Held at Mr. Cork's, Queen's Head Inn, Burnlem, June 5.

Premier prize, for the best feathered flower, J. Steele, Duc de Savoy; for the best flamed flower, T. Moray, Rose Imperial.

**Feathered Bizarres.**—1. T. Boote, Compt de Villafior; 2. W. Wright, Charles X.; 3. W. Wright, Duc de Savoy; 4. W. Wright, Duc de Savoy; 5. T. Moray, Magnum Bonum; 6. T. Boote, Sultana; 7. J. Steele, Sultana.

**Flamed Bizarres.**—1. W. Wright, Albion; 2. T. Moray, Charles X.; 3. T. Moray, Black Prince; 4. D. Brown, Surpass Catafalque; 5. D. Brown, Surpass Catafalque; 6. D. Brown, Surpass Catafalque; 7. J. Steele, Seedling.

**Feathered Byblæmens.**—1. W. Wright, Bienfait; 2. J. Steele Seedling; 3. J. Steele, Bienfait; 4. T. Boote, Sang de Bœuf; 5. T. Boote, Sang de Bœuf; 6. T. Boote, Princess Charlotte; 7. T. Moray, Gadd's Magnificence.

**Flamed Byblæmens.**—1. D. Brown, Bienfait; 2. T. Moray, Ambassador; 3. T. Boot, Gadd's Magnificence; 4. T. Steele, Gadd's Magnificence; 5. W. Wright, Maitre Partout; 6. W. Wright, Maitre Partout; 7. T. Boot, Maitre Partout.

**Feathered Roses.**—1. W. Wright, Lady Crewe; 2. D. Brown, Walworth; 3. D. Brown, Dolittle; 4. D. Brown, Rose Blandina; 5. T. Moray, La Belle Nannette; 6. J. Steele, La Belle Nannette; 7. T. Boote, La Belle Nannette.

**Flamed Roses.**—1. J. Steele, Triomphe Royale; 2. T. Boote, Lord Hill; 3. W. Wright, Unique; 4. W. Wright, Unique; 5. D. Brown, Hero of the Nile; 6. T. Moray, Bacchus; 7. J. Steele, Bacchus.

**Breeders.**—1. T. Boote, Dutch Catafalque; 2. T. Boote, Rose; 3. W. Wright, Byblæmen.

**Selfs.**—1. T. Moray, Min d'Or; 2. T. Moray, White Flag.

**Judge**—Robert Morley, Newcastle-under-Lyne.

**Residences**—Joseph Steele, Roughwood, near Sandbatch, Cheshire; David Brown, Newcastle-under-Lyne; Thomas Moray, Cobridge; Thomas Boote, Smallthorne, William Wright, New Chapel.

## LEEDS OLD FLORAL SOCIETY.

Auricula and Polyanthus Show, held at the Woodman Inn, Gower-street, Tuesday, April 27.

Premier, Messrs. B. Ely and Son, Fletcher's Mary Ann.—1st pan, Messrs. B. Ely and Son, Oliver's Lovely Ann, Fletcher's Mary Ann, Mellor's Reform, and Netherwood's Othello; 2nd. Mr. W. Chadwick, Sykes' Complete, Lovely Ann, Catherine, and Othello; 3rd. Mr. J. Kelsey, Lovely Ann, Complete, Bright Venus, and Othello.

*Green Edge*.—1. J. Kelsey, Lovely Ann; 2. I. Bailey, Lady Ann Wilbraham; 3. B. Ely and Son, Pollet's Standard; 4. J. Kelsey, Robin Hood; 5. I. Bailey, Barlow's King; 6. B. Ely and Son, Queen Victoria.

*Grey Edge*.—1. B. Ely and Son, Mary Ann; 2. W. Chadwick, Complete; 3. J. Kelsey, Ringleader; 4. J. Bally, Ne plus ultra; 5. B. Ely and Son, Lovely Ann; 6. W. Chadwick, Queen Victoria.

*White Edge*.—1. W. Chadwick, Catherine; 2. W. Chadwick, Venus; 3. J. Kelsey, Potts's Regulator; 4. J. Kelsey, Lord of Hallamshire; 5. W. Shaw, Lily of the Valley; 6. W. Chadwick, Taylor's Glory.

*Sells*.—1. B. Ely, Netherwood's Othello; 2. J. Bailey, Flora's Flag; 3. J. Kelsey, Kay's Jupiter; 4. B. Ely, Oddy's Rest; 5. B. Ely, Lord Lee; 6. W. Chadwick, Ned Lud.

ALPINES.—1. W. Chadwick, Seedling; 2. W. Shaw, Fair Rosamond; 3. W. Chadwick, Fair Ellen; 4. B. Ely and Son, Favourite; 5. J. Kelsey, Moore's Seedling; 6. W. Shaw, King of the Alps.

POLYANTHUSES.—*Dark Ground*.—1. W. Chadwick, Rancilffe; 2. B. Ely and Son, Duchess of Gloucester; 3. J. Boshell, Alexander; 4. B. Ely and Son, Negro Boy; 5. W. Chadwick, Seedling; 6. B. Ely and Son, Sir John Hobhouse.

—*Red Ground*.—1. B. Ely and Son, Bullock's Lancer; 2. W. Chadwick, Seedling; 3. W. Chadwick, Prince Regent; 4. W. Chadwick, Prince Regent; 5. W. Chadwick, Prince Regent; 6. W. Chadwick, Prince Regent.

Judges—Messrs. Jonathan Jackson, Deighton; John Gill, jun., Wakefield; and Edward Mitchell, Leeds.

[The above came too late to insert in its proper place.]

## TULIP SHOW,

Held at the Woodman Inn, Gower-street, Leeds, June 8.

Premier bloom, Mr. W. Chadwick, Crown Prince.—1st pan of seven dissimilar blooms, Mr. J. W. Bower, Polyphemus, Surpass Catafalque, Grand Cid, Washington, Aglaia, Duchess of Newcastle, and Breeder; 2nd ditto, Mr. Shaw; 3rd ditto, Mr. W. Chadwick.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. W. Chadwick, Crown Prince; 2. C. Benton, Surpass Catafalque; 3. J. W. Bower, Hutton's Optimus; 4. C. Benton, Firebrand; 5. B. Ely, Charles X.; 6. C. Benton, Trafalgar.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. W. Bower, Polyphemus; 2. W. Shaw, Unknown; 3. J. W. Bower, Carlo Dolci; 4. W. Chadwick, Parnassus; 5. J. W. Bower, Pizarro; 6. W. Shaw, Wolstenholme.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. W. Bower, Washington; 2. C. Benton, Light Baguet; 3. C. Benton, Grand Turk; 4. J. Boshell, La Belle Narene; 5. B. Ely, Gignum le Violet; 6. J. Shaw, Washington.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. W. Bower, Bienfait; 2. J. W. Bower, Violet Brun; 3. J. Shaw, Unknown; 4. J. W. Bower, Black Baguet; 5. W. Shaw, Unknown; 6. C. Benton, Violet a Fond Noir.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. W. Bower, Duchess of Newcastle; 2. W. Shaw, Triomphe Royale; 3. W. Chadwick, Heroine; 4. W. Shaw, Unknown; 5. W. Chadwick, Unknown; 6. J. Boshill, La Belle Nannette.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. W. Chadwick, Rose Premier; 2. C. Schofield, Rose Aglaia; 3. J. W. Bower, Triomphe Royale; 4. W. Chadwick, Lord Hill; 5. C. Schofield, Unknown; 6. A. W. Giles, Cerise Primo.

*Sells*.—1. W. Shaw, Min d'Or; 2. J. W. Bower, Byblæmen Breeder; 3. J. W. Bower, Rose Breeder; 4. B. Ely, Desdemona; 5. G. Wild, Ely's Sovereign; 6. C. Benton, Cotherstone.

Judges—Mr. Edward Mitchell, and Mr. John Rhodes, Leeds.



## TULIP SHOW,

Held at the Green Man Inn, Vindercliff, near Bradford, June 14.

[ Premier prize, J. Fieldhouse, Firebrand.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Firebrand; 2. John Buckley, Gigan-tum; 3. John Buckley, Cato; 4. A. Whitehead, Crown Prince; 5. J. Field-house, Trafalgar; 6. J. Fieldhouse, Rector; 7. A. Whitehead, Earl of Brad-ford; 8. J. Fieldhouse, Wellington.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Wolstenholme; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Albion; 3. J. Buckley, Sir J. Banks; 4. A. Whitehead, Agricola; 5. J. Field-house, Surpassa Catafalque; 6. J. Fieldhouse, Farran's Liberty; 7. J. Wat-muff, George IV.; 8. J. Fieldhouse, Pizarro.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Partout; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Violet Winner; 3. J. Fieldhouse, Clotilda; 4. R. Holgate, Mango; 5. J. Fieldhouse, Bienfait; 6. J. Fieldhouse, Washington; 7. A. Whitehead, Lara; 8. J. Whitehead, Unknown.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Gadsby's Magnificent; 2. J. Field-house, Violet a Fond Noir; 3. J. Fieldhouse, Bientait; 4. R. Holgate, Char-lotte; 5. J. Buckley, Unknown; 6. J. Buckley, Unknown; 7. J. Fieldhouse, Violet Winner; 8. J. Fieldhouse, Queen of May.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Walworth; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Lady Middleton; 3. J. Fieldhouse, Dolittle; 4. J. Fieldhouse, Lady Crewe; 5. J. Fieldhouse, Duc de Bronte; 6. J. Watmuff, Ellis's No. 26; 7. R. Holgate, Neat and Clean; 8. J. Fieldhouse, Ellis's No. 47.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Ellis's No. 49; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Rose Unique; 3. J. Fieldhouse, Princess Victoria; 4. J. Watmuff, Rose Grandis; 5. J. Fieldhouse, Lady Crewe; 6. A. Whitehead, Rose Minature; 7. J. Field-house, Vesta; 8. J. Buckley, Turner's Lord Hill.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Buckley, Min d'Or; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Flag; 3. J. Fieldhouse, Canary; 4. R. Holgate, Mountain of Snow.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Lord Hill; 2. J. Fieldhouse, Walworth; 3. J. Watmuff, Seedling; 4. J. Watmuff, Seedling.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Watmuff, Seedling; 2. R. Holgate, Seedling; 3. J. Buckley, Seedling; 4. J. Watmuff, Seedling.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Fieldhouse, Baguet; 2. J. Watmuff, Seedling; 3. J. Watmuff, Seedling; 4. J. Watmuff, Seedling.

COTTAGER'S EXHIBITION OF CALCEOLARIAS, GERANIUMS,  
AND FUCHSIAS,

At the Golden Fleece Inn, Great Horton, near Bradford, June 14.

Premier prize, best plant of each species in a pan or stand, A. Kallett, for Louis Phillip (Calceolaria), Duke of Cornwall (Geranium), Vesta (Fuchsia).

*CALCEOLARIAS*.—*Dark*.—1. J. Barraclough, Alexander; 2. M. Brook, Hannah.—*Light*.—1. A. Kallett, Seedling; 2. A. Kallett, Symmetry.—*Dark Selfs*.—1. M. Brooks, Othello; 2. J. Barraclough, Seedling.

*GERANIUMS*.—1. J. Jackson, Alba Perfecta; 2. S. Briggs, Alexandrina.—*Rose*.—1. A. Kallett, Masterpiece; 2. J. Brook, Nymph.—*Purple*.—1. M. Brook, Sir R. Peel; 2. S. Briggs, Conservator.

*FUCHSIAS*.—*Light*.—1. M. Brook, Duchess of Sutherland; 2. J. Brook, Vesta.—*Dark*.—1. J. Jackson, Admiral; 2. M. Brook, Hope.

## PINK SHOW,

Held at the Crown Inn, Nottingham, June 30.

First pan, Mr. Buswell, for Sturge, Criterion, Huntsman, Black Diamond, Kay's Mary, and Snowball; second pan, Mr. Wood, Seedling, Gaylad, Miranda, Duke of Northumberland, Purity, and Lady Boldhaughton.

*Purple*.—Premier, Mr. Gibbons, Huntsman; 1. Mr. Gibbons, Bunkell's Queen; 2. Mr. Buswell, Jupiter; 3. Mr. Wasnidge, Defiance; 4. Mr. Nix, Greensides; 5. Mr. Wood, Mead's Rival; 6. Mr. Nix, Suarrow.

*Red*.—Premier, Mr. Gibbons, Sturge; 1. Mr. Nix, Sir Frederick; 2. Mr. Wasnidge, Belzoni; 3. Mr. Orchard, Criterion; 4. Mr. Orchard, Sharp's Splendid; 5. Mr. Orchard, Lewis's Tasso; 6. Mr. Nix, Hodges's Jem.

*Black and White*.—Premier, Mr. Gibbons, Purity; 1. Mr. Wasnidge, Kay's Mary; 2. Mr. Wasnidge, Alice Hawthorn; 3. Mr. Wood, Seedling; 4. Mr. Wood, White Rose; 5. Mr. Buswell, Snowball; 6. Mr. Buswell, Lady Frost.

## PINK SHOW,

At the Red Lion Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyne, July 3.

*Purple Lace*.—Premier, E. Barker, Mango; 1. R. Moorley, Duke of St. Albans; 2. H. Eaton, Greensides; 3. E. Barker, Mango; 4. J. Tilstone, Perfection; 5. R. Moorley, Huntsman; 6. E. Barker, Seedling; 7. T. Williams, Seedling; 8. T. Williams, Freeman; 9. H. Eaton, Unknown; 10. E. Barker, Paragon.

*Red Lace*.—Premier, E. Barker, Joseph Sturge; 1. E. Barker, Joseph Sturge; 2. E. Barker, Thirza; 3. T. Williams, Seedling, Jenny Lind; 4. D. Brown, Mary Ann; 5. T. Williams, Victory; 6. J. Tilstone, Bonny Bet; 7. H. Eaton, Louis Tasso; 8. E. Barker, Seedling, Grace Darling; 9. E. Barker, Jupiter; 10. R. Moorley, Seedling, Dorothy.

*Black and White*.—Premier, E. Barker, Seedling, Fairy Queen; 1. E. Barker, Seedling, Fairy Queen; 2. T. Williams, Seedling; 3. J. Tilstone, Margaret; 4. T. Williams, Beauty of Blackburn; 5. T. Williams, Mary; 6. H. Eaton, Superior; 7. R. Moorley, Lillia; 8. D. Brown, Union; 9. T. Williams, Lady Boldhaughton; 10. D. Brown, White Rock.

Judges—T. Moray, Cobridge; T. Boote, Smallthorne; W. Cockersole, Newcastle.

Residences—E. Barker, Pool-side; R. Moorley, Clarence-street; H. Eaton, Ireland; J. Tilstone, Lower-green; T. Williams, Fletcher-street; and D. Brown, Lower-street.

## PINK SHOW,

At the Lamb and Flag Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyne, July 11.

*Purple Lace*.—Premier, E. Harding, Huntsman; 1. D. Brown, Beauty of Rochdale; 2. W. Griffiths, Duke of St. Albans; 3. H. Eaton, Huntsman; 4. D. Brown, Mango; 5. E. Harding, Seedling; 6. E. Barker, Greensides; 7. W. Griffiths, Perfection; 8. S. Tittenson, Tilstone's Richard Cobden; 9. T. Williams, Seedling; 10. E. Harding, Lustre.

*Red Lace*.—Premier, E. Barker, Joseph Sturge; 1. E. Harding, Joseph Sturge; 2. D. Brown, Sir William; 3. D. Brown, Thirza; 4. R. Moorley, Seedling, Dorothy; 5. H. Eaton, Unknown; 6. E. Barker, Seedling, Maid of Saragossa; 7. E. Barker, Seedling, Heroine; 8. H. Eaton, Louis Tasso; 9. E. Harding, Susannah; 10. T. Williams, Seedling.

*Black and White*.—Premier, W. Griffiths, Beauty of Blackburn; 1. W. Griffiths, Lady Boldhaughton; 2. E. Harding, Margaret; 3. T. Williams, Beauty of Blackburn; 4. E. Barker, Seedling, Fairy Queen; 5. T. Williams, Seedling, Alice; 6. T. Williams, White Rock; 7. W. Griffiths, Union; 8. E. Harding, Shaver; 9. E. Harding, Mary; 10. T. Williams, Seedling.

Judges—T. Boote, Smallthorne; H. Penson, Hanchurch; E. Pickerell, Newcastle.

Residences—E. Harding, Stoke-road; D. Brown, Lower-street; W. Griffiths, and R. Moorley, Clarence-street; H. Eaton, Ireland; E. Barker, Pool-side; S. Tittenson, Goose-street; and T. Williams, Fletcher-street.

## PINK SHOW,

At Mr. Wm. Greaves's, Horse and Trumpet Inn, Bradford, July 12.

Premier prize, I. Normington, Dr. Halley.

*Purple-edged*.—1. W. Patchet, Lady Milner; 2. H. Mitchell, Greensides; 3. I. Normington, seedling; 4. I. Normington, Suar-row; 5. J. Jackson, Huntsman; 6. J. Hill, Seedling; 7. J. Smith, Lady Bosmon; 8. J. Hill, Carnation.

*Red-laced*.—1. H. Mitchell, Beeswing; 2. H. Mitchell, Little Wonder; 3. J. Hill, Venus; 4. J. Hill, Seedling; 5. J. Smith, Dr. Hepworth; 6. J. Smith, Mars; 7. H. Clarke, Criterion; 8. H. Mitchell, King of Pinks.

*Black and White*.—1. I. Normington, Beauty of Blackburn; 2. J. Jackson, Kay's Mary; 3. I. Normington, Lady Boldhaughton; 4. J. Halliday, White Rock; 5. J. Hill, Heroine; 6. I. Normington, Superior; 7. I. Normington, Snowball; 8. J. Jackson, Virgin Queen.

## PINK SHOW,

At the Green Man Inn, Vindercliff, near Bradford, July 19.

*Purple-laced*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. I. Normington, for Huntsman, Dr. Halley, Lady Milner, Airedale's Beauty (seedling), Suarrow, Pilgrim, Carnation; 8. J. Hill, Seedling.

*Red-laced*.—1. J. Hill, Seedling; 2. W. Patchet, Little Wonder; 3. I. Normington, Dreadnought; 4. J. Franklin, Dr. Hepworth; 5. I. Normington, Seedling; 6. W. Patchet, Criterion; 7. W. Patchet, King of Pinks; 8. I. Normington, Lord Valentia.

*Black and White*.—1. I. Normington, Beauty of Blackburn; 2. J. Frankland, Clarke's Heroine; 3. W. Patchet, Perry's Union; 4. J. Frankland, Alice Hawthorn; 5. I. Normington, Nulli Secundus; 6. I. Normington, Lady Boldhaughton; 7. J. Frankland, Symmetry; 8. J. Hill, Snowball.

## HUNTS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,

The third show of this society took place July 27, at the Shire Hall, which was crowded with the aristocracy of the county.

## CARNATIONS.

*Scarlet Bizarre*.—1. R. Headley, Esq. Hepworth's Hector; 2. F. Barringer, Hepworth's Leader; 3. F. Barringer, Hepworth's Leader; 4. J. Barringer, Hepworth's Leader.

*Crimson or Purple*.—1. F. Barringer, Wakefield's Paul Pry; 2. Mrs. Wood, Wakefield's Paul Pry; 3. F. Barringer, Ely's Lord Milton; 4. Mrs. Wood, Ely's Lord Milton.

*Scarlet Flake*.—1. Mrs. Wood, Wilson's William IV.; 2. Mrs. Wood, Wilson's William IV.; 3. Mrs. Wood, Addenbrooke's Lydia; 4. Mrs. Wood, Marquis of Granby.

*Purple*.—1. F. Hogge, Esq. Queen of Sheba; 2. F. Barringer, Meynell; 3. Mrs. Wood, Queen of Sheba; 4. R. Headley, Esq. Mrs. Illard.

*Rose*.—1. F. Barringer, Ely's Lovely Ann; 2. J. Barringer, Ely's Lovely Ann; 3. F. Barringer, Ely's Lovely Ann; 4. J. Barringer, Ely's Lovely Ann.

Best carnation, by amateurs not growing more than fifty plants, by Mrs. Wood.—W. Dickerson, Wood's William IV.

## PICOTEEES.

*Light Purple*.—1. F. Barringer, Sharpe's L'Elegante; 2. R. Headley, Esq. Purple Perfection; 3. J. Barringer, Fairy Queen; 4. R. Headley, Esq. L'Elegante.

*Heavy Purple*.—1. F. Barringer, Wood's Princess Alice; 2. Mrs. Wood, Wood's Princess Alice; 3. F. Barringer, Wood's Princess Alice; 4. Mr. Giddings, Wood's Princess Alice.

*Light Red*.—1. F. Barringer, Queen of England; 2. Mr. Giddings, Sharpe's Duke of Wellington; 3. Mr. Giddings, Seedling; 4. Mrs. Wood, Sharpe's Fair Flora.

*Heavy Red*.—1. R. Headley, Esq. King James; 2. R. Headley, Esq. King James; 3. R. Headley, Esq. King James; 4. R. Headley, Esq. King James.

*Light Rose*.—1. F. Barringer, Mrs. Barnard; 2. Mrs. Wood, Wain's Victoria; 3. Mrs. Wood, Wain's Victoria; 4. R. Headley, Esq. Seedling, Sylph.

*Heavy Rose*.—1. R. Headley, Esq. Headley's Venus; 2. R. Headley, Esq. Headley's Venus; 3. R. Headley, Esq. Headley's Venus; 4. R. Headley, Esq. Princess Royal.

*Yellow*.—1. F. Barringer, Martin's Victoria; 2. F. Barringer, Martin's Victoria; 3. J. Barringer, Martin's Victoria; 4. J. Barringer, Martin's Victoria.

Best picotee, by amateurs not growing more than fifty plants, by Mrs. Wood.—R. Margetts, Esq. Giddings' Seedling.

Seedling, by Mr. Giddings.—R. Headley, Esq. Headley's Seedling.

## CARNATION AND GOOSEBERRY SHOW,

At the Black Bull Inn, Leicester, July 28.

		dwt.	gr.
First prize, heaviest of all colours, W. Mitchell, Thumper.....		18	23
Second prize, H. T. Mortimer, Companion.....		17	15
	RED.	dwt.	gr.
W. Mitchell, Thumper.....		18	9
C. Mortimer, Companion.....		17	5
T. Cooke, Wonderful.....		16	10
J. Galloway, Slaughterman....		16	1
J. Cooke, Guido.....		15	15
S. Hamel, London.....		14	21
	GREEN.		
W. Mitchell, Thumper.....		18	21
S. Hamel, Turnout.....		17	9
J. Cooke, Isabella.....		16	2
C. Mortimer, Peacock.....		15	21
J. Cooke, Ocean.....		14	4
H. T. Mortimer, Overall.....		13	12
	YELLOW.	dwt.	gr.
C. Mortimer, Leader.....		15	14
W. Mitchell, Gunner.....		15	12
J. Cooke, Dublin.....		14	18
T. Galloway, Pilot.....		14	5
T. Galloway, Broom Girl.....		14	4
S. Hamel, Teazer.....		14	2
	WHITE.		
W. Mitchell, Delamare.....		17	14
J. Cooke, Eagle.....		15	17
J. Cooke, Nonpareil.....		15	13
J. Cooke, Sherwood Maid....		13	15
W. Mitchell, Queen of Trumps		13	2
T. Galloway, Coppice Lass.....		12	19
T. Galloway, Green Seedling..		12	8
J. Cooke, Green Seedling.....		7	7

## CARNATIONS.

*Scarlet Bizarre*.—1. W. Hollyoake, Lodge's True Briton; 2. R. Marris, Hepworth's Hamlet; 3. W. Mitchell, Twitchett's Don John; 4. W. Mitchell, Twitchett's Don John.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1. W. Hollyoake, Hollyoake's Dido; 2. R. Marris, Bothomley's Beauty of Brighthouse; 3. R. Marris, Wilmer's Venella; 4. R. Marris, Beauty of Brighthouse; 5. R. Marris, Ely's King of Scarlets; 6. W. Hollyoake, Bucknall's Ulysses; 7. W. Mitchell, Wilson's William IV.; 7. W. Mitchell, Wilson's Wm. IV.

*Rose Flakes*.—1. R. Marris, Brooks's Flora's Garland; 2. W. Mitchell, Leighton's Sir George Crewe; 3. W. Hollyoake, Ely's Lovely Anne; 4. W. Mitchell, Sir George Crewe.

*Purple Flakes*.—1. W. Hollyoake, Taylor's Lord Byron; 2. W. Hollyoake, Hudson's Duke of Rutland.

## PICOTEES.

*Light-edged*.—1. W. Mitchell, John's Prince Albert; 2. W. Mitchell, Crask's Prince Albert; 3. W. Mitchell, Sharp's Invincible.

*Heavy-edged Purple*.—1. W. Mitchell, Wood's Princess Alice; 2. W. Mitchell, Wood's Princess Alice; 3. W. Mitchell, Ely's Favourite; 4. W. Mitchell, Princess Alice; 5. W. Hollyoake, Hollyoake's Elizabeth; 6. R. Marris, Burroughs's President; 7. R. Marris, Princess Alice; 8. R. Marris, Ely's Mrs. Lilly.

*Light-edged Rose*.—1. W. Hollyoake, Burroughs's Lady Alice Peel.

*Heavy-edged Red*.—1. R. Marris, Sharp's Duke of Wellington; 2. W. Mitchell, Groves's Coningsby; 3. R. Marris, Marris's Morning Star; 4. R. Marris, Wildman's Isabella; 5. R. Marris, Marris's Viscount Hardinge; 6. R. Marris, Hudson's Unique; 7. W. Mitchell, Parker's Sir Thomas; 8. W. Mitchell, Lightbody's Seedling.

*FUCHSIAS*.—W. Mitchell, Sir Henry Pottinger, Gem, and Smith's Majestica.

## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## ON PERFECTION OF FORM IN THE TULIP.

THE correspondent who styles himself "Brih," in the September number of the *Midland Florist*, is truly complimentary in applying the terms "admirable" and "praiseworthy" to what I have written on this subject. But whilst thus honouring me with expressions of his approbation, he nevertheless appears more intent upon disparaging the merits of the views I entertain, and more anxious to obtain credence for the correctness of his own opinions, than to care much about accuracy in noticing the opinions of others. It is rather presuming too much upon our forgetfulness, for him now to say, "except agreeing as to the depth of cup in the tulip, all are at variance;" for I think it has been shewn plainly enough by reference to the writings of our best authorities, that, so far from all being agreed, *all differ* on this point; and I would advise him, before he again favours us with any more "criticisms," whether "crude" or refined, "imperfect" or perfect, to give the whole article another and more careful perusal, in order that future misrepresentation may be avoided. If this anonymous correspondent, when testing the properties of the tulips he names, had followed the recommendation of the editor, and had taken the *Midland Florist* in his hand, with a view to ascertain for himself the *practical* value of the standard I have adopted, he would have been less likely to err in the application of the principles on which it is constructed; and would have saved himself from committing the absurdity (to say nothing of the unfairness) of citing Claudiana

as an example of an half circular tulip, and at the same time describing its petals as rising "too abruptly from the stem," which, in a flower of that form, it would be impossible for them to do. I think too he would have had less affection for *shouldered* tulips, after a careful examination of the defects I have enumerated as appertaining to them; and would have found that the true reason why Brown's Hamlet is the most worthy to be set apart as a "model," consists in its being freer from this kind of distortion, and in other respects more accordant with the rule I have laid down, than any of the other varieties named. I believe also that his admiration of the petals of Godet Parfait would have led him to discover that whenever the "junction of the petals is so close as to seem entirely one," it is simply because their "upper margin forms an arc or curve whose radius is about equal to half the diameter or whole depth of the flower," a property which, when conjoined with the half-circular form, presents us with an uniformity of outline in every part of the flower, which in my opinion will ever be regarded as not only exceedingly beautiful, but as constituting perfection itself.

How it is that any one, having the smallest pretension to purity of taste in matters of form, should ever advocate the existence of angular-petaled or shouldered tulips, has often appeared to me surprising; and the more I consider the subject, the more I am inclined to attribute this partiality to long existing prejudice in favour of particular varieties, which it is at all times difficult to overcome. But overcome it will be ultimately, for I feel confident that no truly valid reason can be given for retaining a form which the teachings of nature and the rules of art alike proclaim imperfect. Some there are, I know, who consider the shoulder to impart strength to the tulip; and this is the reason commonly assigned for giving preference to this form; but the argument is fallacious. If we examine Alexander Magnus, Princess Sophia, and others of like angular

form, and compare them with such tulips as Lucullus, Polyphemus, Addison, or Louis XVI., we shall instantly perceive the superior gracefulness of the circular form which characterizes the latter; and at the same time find that *strength and durability of petal depend alone upon thickness, combined with breadth of attachment to the stem*—a property which is by no means peculiar to shouldered tulips, as the above-named and numerous others abundantly prove.

In discussing this subject I would remark, that I am by no means desirous of becoming the standard maker for the tulip growers of this country. I am, however, wishful to improve the taste for correct forms, in those who delight in the cultivation of this favourite flower; and shall rejoice as much as “Brih” can possibly do in seeing “this question *practically settled*.” I would further observe, that whether this question of form be left to a committee of taste, or whether it be left for the public to decide, I request, as I believe I have a right to do, that the arguments I have used, and the facts I have adduced, may be *fairly canvassed*. It is easy to condemn, but it is not always easy to prove a thing worthy of condemnation; and in every controversy we should all do well to bear in mind that mere assertion is not proof.

G. W. HARDY.

Warrington, Sept. 9, 1847.

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## ESSAY ON THE CARNATION.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

[Completed from page 342.]

THE operation of layering properly is one of some nicety, but there are many bunglers. Much has been written; but it requires practice and patience to do it well. I tried last year a plan recommended by a writer in one of the floricultural publications: it was merely to cut out a notch just below a joint. It cer-

tainly had simplicity in its favour; but I must candidly say, that those thus operated upon were the worst rooted in my collection. Still I shall, if possible, give the plan another trial next season. The system generally followed, and the one that I find to answer best, is, after having provided an equal quantity of road dust and decayed leaves, or other vegetable soils, well mixed, and a quantity of pegs, either made of braken or fern, or what is far better, leaden ones, cast in a mould, I place my pot in a wheelbarrow, or on a low table, and take my seat in front. I then, with a sharp knife, remove the lower leaves, close to the stem, and shorten the ends of the others; but, as I before observed, I am not fond of cutting away too much. When all the layers are trimmed, some of the compost must be put on the pot; and, having selected the joint to cut through, I place my finger at the back, to keep it steady, and gently insert the point of a surgeon's dissecting knife, of the smallest size, in the centre of the stem, pushing it gently forward, with the edge downward, till the blade is half through; I then give the handle a slight twist, and bring the blade out below the joint, on the under side, thus forming a nice tongue. The nib is then cut back to a joint, and the piece of leaf stripped off, leaving a small bud at the bottom. It is then carefully pegged down in the fine soil which had been placed on the pot. Each layer is operated on in a similar manner. When all down, they have a little more soil put on them, but by no means should they be buried deep. It sometimes happens that there are shoots so high as not to be conveniently brought down to the same level as the others; when this is the case, a large piece of broken pot is placed within the rim, which holds up the soil, and makes a higher surface, in which they are layered; or sometimes they will be long enough to insert in small pots placed close to the stem. After having got all the shoots down and slightly covered with soil, I place smooth flat stones, about the size of a halfpenny, as



near as possible over the cut of each layer. This not only prevents the soil being washed away from that particular part, but I feel convinced it very much accelerates the rooting; for if the weather be hot, and the soil in other parts of the pot dry, if you examine beneath these stones, a genial moisture will be perceived; yet the pebbles contract heat, which they slowly give out, much to the benefit of the layers. I must here notice the operation of piping; and though the carnation is much more difficult to root than the pink, yet I have adopted it with tolerable success; the great matter is to do them early, for they require plenty of time. I insert them in a light soil, under a north-east wall, and having watered, to settle the soil about them, when perfectly dry, they are covered with a hand-glass. They sometimes require a slight shade, and this is accomplished by putting a little soil on the top of each glass; but I do not remove the glass till I see they are establishing themselves, unless any damp off; in that case they are taken away. The worms will sometimes prove injurious, both to the pipings and to the layers. When they are perceived, a little water in which hot lime has been slaked, will destroy them, if poured over their holes. The layers must be constantly watched, and soil added now and then, but it must be with a sparing hand. They may be watered most evenings in hot weather, but it should be with water which has been exposed to the action of the sun during the day; and but little other attention will be required till they are ready to take off.

Before concluding, some little notice must be taken of the seed. As the flowers begin to fade it is necessary to remove the withered petals. This should be done without injuring the pointals or female organs of the flower, which are like two small horns. If the withered petals are allowed to remain, they often contract dampness, which is fatal to the embryo seed. It is also a good plan to slit down the pod, in order to prevent any lodgment of water.

When the pods are full ripe, they may be gathered, and the seed should remain in them till the following spring, and about the latter end of April may be rubbed out, and sown in shallow pans, or on a bed, covering it slightly with soil. It may remain here till the plants are about three inches high, when they may be planted out on a moderately rich bed. It is well not to have them too strong the first winter; but the following spring the surface of the soil may be covered with a rich compost. As the seedlings spindle, the single ones should be removed, to give the others room; and should the raiser be fortunate enough to have one which strikes his fancy, he may layer it, and adopt the same means and precautions as I have before stated.

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### IMPREGNATION OF THE CARNATION AND PINK.

IMPREGNATION is said to be resorted to as a means of combining the properties of dissimilar flowers. This sounds well in theory, but as far as the dianthus tribe is concerned, is not always to be carried out in practice. Writers on these subjects sometimes recommend such a flower to be fertilized with the pollen of such another flower, upon which neither they nor perhaps any other person ever saw pollen at all.

It is true, however, that the production of pollen is wonderfully modified by circumstances. I well recollect that many years ago, I received for the first time a pair of Leighton's Bellerophon, purple flake, generally a full flower: however, this pair was in a diseased state, the flowers were thin and small, and produced a quantity of pollen, but the plants died in a short time. The following season, having had an opportunity of selecting some healthy layers of this fine old sort, I had some good blooms, but no pollen, and the difference in the appearance of the flower was so great, I could scarcely think it was the same sort.

Old exhausted plants of double carnations will sometimes send up flowers bearing pollen, which, when vigorous, was never found upon them. Plants raised from weak pipings, having often fewer petals, seem more likely to produce pollen than those from strong layers.

As to the commixture of properties by crossing, I have my doubts; having frequently found that the shape of petal, tint, and disposition of colour, were mainly influenced by the male parent, although the form and size might in some degree depend upon the female. I had once a seedling scarlet bizarre, very double and high coloured, but apt to run. I impregnated it with the pollen of Greasley's Lady Milton, a flower not very double, with narrow petals and a profusion of pollen. The seedlings were all lost, but one, which proved a rose flake; the colour not laid on in regular stripes, but in splashes, just like Lady Milton, only it was a much larger and more double flower. I have seen a flower called Ely's Major Goldsworthy, said to have been raised from Paul Pry, which has narrow markings, like the parent. For this reason I should certainly prefer seedlings from some one first-rate sort, like Ely's Milton, or Lady Ely, or Mango, to those raised by crossing. But if I saw pollen upon these flowers, I would certainly apply it to their pistils, instead of leaving all to nature.

It has been said that guano and bone saw dust, applied to the roots of any plant, have a tendency to render it more fruitful. I have not found any such effect from these substances, although they do invigorate the plant. Liquid manures increase the production of grass; but if pollen be required, it is probably better to abstain from stimulus. Much seems to depend on the season; the past one has been remarkably favourable. Those carnations which bloom early should be cherished by the florist who wishes to raise new varieties from seed. Early layering seems very advisable.

About the midseason, the blooms of carnations in some gardens are infested by a small black shining insect, which seems to gnaw through the filament, so that the anther falls unripe. The pinks, blooming earlier, seem to escape this pest, which cannot be guarded against, as earwigs may.

I am inclined to think there is some difference in the capacity of carnations for impregnation, other circumstances being alike. I never succeeded with Hufton's Patriarch, in which the pistillum is very thin, long, and thread-like, nor with any similar flower. Where the anthers are numerous, but small, the pollen seems to be of little value; where they are fewer in number, but bold and large, the pollen is generally powerful. Wilson's Fanny Irby, rose picotee, has many anthers, although a very double flower; but I never succeeded with its pollen, notwithstanding when the flower first appeared I took some pains with it. I am inclined to think that it is not enough to touch the extremities of the horns; the brush should be passed down as far as possible.

Although we might raise better carnations, by assisting a first rate flower with its own pollen, yet, as we cannot always do that, we ought not to neglect cross breeding.

I had once some few seedlings from Fletcher's Red Rover; they were scarlet flakes, of good colour, but so double, and such awkward pods, that they were not worth growing. If the pollen which produced these had been applied to such a flower as Caxton, which blooms about the same time, a better result might have been obtained. I have sometimes impregnated yellow picotees with the pollen of a white ground flower, but the result was always a white ground again. I once had seven or eight seedlings from Hoyles's Duke of Leeds, scarlet bizarre, all of which were run scarlet bizarres; in this case the pollen might have been better employed.

If we see among our seedlings a purple self, how are we to know if it represents a self, a run purple

flake, or a run purple picotee? I had once a seedling of this kind, possessed of superior form and most substantial petal; with it I crossed a flower of Ely's Milton, and procured seed, but only five plants lived to bloom. Four of these had somewhat the appearance of run pink bizarres; the fifth was a purple flake of excellent form, but the white very impure. I wished to have carried the experiment further—to have impregnated a picotee with the same pollen, but I could not procure sufficient.

I think the flower to be impregnated can hardly be too thin, as long as the plant is healthy. *Sound plants* should be selected for the purpose; and probably a simple compost will be found the best. The stakes they are tied to should be thick at the lower extremity (which may be charred), and very thin above, and may be set raking, or slanting, in the pot; thus the blossoms will be kept in a drooping position, the stakes will be less likely to blow up or break, and the pot can be more easily placed under a light, to preserve either pod or pollen from wet, and assist the ripening of the seed.

AN AMATEUR.

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ON THE  
MEANS OF ELEVATING THE FLORAL COMMUNITY,  
AND INCREASING THE  
RESPECTABILITY OF EXHIBITIONS.

It cannot have escaped the notice of florists generally, that their community does not contain so many purely amateur exhibitors as it formerly did; and this must be a matter of regret to all, and lead to the inference that the pleasures in connection with exhibitions have an alloy which makes their pursuit questionable, if not positively objectionable. It is not unworthy our

inquiry, to ascertain what is that alloy, and to purge it as with fire. For, depend upon it, if anything suffers in *respectability*, it suffers in *reality*; and it is not an increase in our numbers that will compensate for the loss of wealthy, intelligent, and respectable florists. The beauties of the *flower garden* have not diminished—the taste for rational enjoyment is on the increase—floriculture itself is considerably extended: and, notwithstanding all these facts, our exhibitions are insignificant, nay, even contemptible. So much so, that a respectable grower is seldom found even at our open shows; and this is a fact, too, which wants accounting for. I may be in error, and if so, *so much the better*; but my own observation, carefully made, tells me that all is not right, and that the remedy, if there be any, must lie within our power, and be under our control. All must be aware that these introductory remarks have a truth in them, which their experience for some years past has been constantly confirming; and if I were to leave the subject for your consideration, in the shape of a question—*What is the cause of this diminution in the respectability of our exhibitions?*—I imagine all would exclaim, as with one voice, that their insignificance is their reproach, and that to this alone is to be ascribed the alteration in the class of exhibitors. I will explain what I mean. An exhibition open to all England is blazoned in the public journals. This, if the public eye be ever reached by these means—and certainly it is—should convey the idea of something large and respectable in its way; but, alas! when they look for particulars to justify the first impression, they find, instead of great and gratifying attractions, that the whole of this *all England* affair is made up of the paltry subscription of five shillings from each exhibitor; and that the gross amount divisible amongst the pans and classes of thirty or forty exhibitors, would barely constitute a single adequate prize, for a respectable exhibition. Can it be sup-

posed that *gentlemen* will attend exhibitions of this kind, or that the lower class of growers *can afford to do so*, when, in all probability, the expense of travelling to and from the place of exhibition, and refreshments while there, will generally exceed four times the amount of their subscription, and ten times the amount of prize money given in the classes? Thus exhibitors must be convinced (if not before, at least after the meeting) that they had but one chance, and that was, paying dearly for a day's hobby, with competition unrewarded, and success ungratified. Can exhibitors, however fond of their hobby, be thus frequently tempted to these *all England stirs*? I trow not. Men may be tempted to the summit of a precipice, but when there, they will reflect before they leap down. All loss, without the probability of gain, *is the spendthrift's part*. Competition, without suitable encouragement, too much characterises the present open meetings. In this age of progression, look back upon the past, and see whether it is also that of improvement, in every sense of the word. Advice seldom comes till it is too late to be useful. If respectable exhibitors are to attend our meetings, let us employ the means to make them worthy of them. But if every exhibition is to be reduced to the level of a pink show, then farewell to competition and its fruits, and to the leavening influence of respectable growers. The gentlemen who had the management of the Wakefield show, in May last, will agree with me, that the subscription of five shillings each is not sufficient to make a meeting important. I also think that the disposing of the principal part of the funds to two pans, leaving only four or five shillings for each class, was injudicious, if not unequitable. What chance has a small grower at such a meeting, when, after the *pan prizes*, for which he had no chance, scarcely thirty shillings remains to be divided in the classes, amongst as many exhibitors? I allude to Wakefield as one of many with the same sounding

pretensions, not for the purpose of reproach, but to justify my observations. I contend that exhibitors of any class could not be brought together year after year under similar circumstances, and for the reasons already stated. What I wish to see is a better understanding and freer intercourse amongst florists. I would have all meetings open, and under such regulations as would most probably ensure their respectability. Disinterested and competent judges are of the utmost importance to their success; but this appears to be as great a difficulty as societies have to contend with. We do not always find in the same individual *the ability to judge and the disposition to be just*. This positive mismanagement, and the aping of greatness with means too insignificant to be despised, have brought exhibitions and exhibitors into the same unenviable state of littleness; and unless something can be done to elevate the tone of both, the sooner they cease to exist as such the better. In a subsequent number, I perhaps may attempt to show *that the remedy is within our reach and under our control*, and for the present will conclude these remarks by observing that it is not the small or large amount of subscription which entirely characterizes the respectability of societies; but that judicious and proper medium which is too much to be contemptible and too little to be extravagant, small enough to be respectable and yet sufficiently large to keep it so. I would not consent to the appropriation of any part of the subscription in prizes to pans of flowers. If cups are to form a part of the attractions of the meeting, let them be raised by additional subscriptions from those who wish to compete for them. Finally, I do not think that there is a single grower who would prefer a small subscription with prizes corresponding and few exhibitors, to a moderate subscription with liberal prizes and a more numerous and respectable body of exhibitors.

ALPHA.



## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**ELTON CHERRY.**—This is a heart of first-rate quality, good either for the wall or as a standard. Its usual season of ripening is the beginning of July. It is of large size as well as beautiful in colour, and is highly esteemed, being considered, and with good reason, one of the richest flavoured sorts grown.

**GOLIATH PLUM.**—We mention this large and handsome plum, in order to rectify some mistakes that several of our readers appear to entertain. It is also known as the Caledonian, which is the usual designation in the midland counties; and in the more southern parts of the kingdom, it is called the Nectarine Plum. On referring to the Horticultural Society's Catalogue, a first-rate authority in these matters, we find that it is also synonymous with Wilmot's Late Orleans, St. Cloud, and Steer's Emperor. For market or exhibition, it is well worthy of cultivation.

**BERGAMOT SECKLE PEAR.**—We learn from that useful work *Maund's Botanic Garden and Fruitist*, that the above most excellent pear has been originated from seed by John Williams, Esq. of Pitmaston, who, following the example of the late Andrew Knight, Esq. has conferred numerous benefits on the fruit growers of England, by his zeal in the cause of horticulture. It is shaped somewhat like one of its parents the Gansel's Bergamot, and in its delicious melting flesh is combined the excellence of both parents in a remarkable degree. Its season is said to be November, when it is described as "*a ball of liquid*"

*nectar.*" We should be glad to add our testimony to the above, by actual experiment.

**GLOUT MORCEAU PEAR.**—For the northern and midland counties, this fine variety requires a wall or paling, and it will well repay any extra care bestowed on its cultivation. It is a most excellent bearer. The colour of the fruit is green. It attains a large size, and will be in perfection in favourable seasons early in November, and will continue in fine order till the January following.



### NEW GERANIUMS.

**FOLLEY'S BLACK PRINCE.**—This very fine variety was originated from seed, in the island of Jersey, by Mr. Folley, gardener to John Poigndestre, Esq. of Glanville House. It is very round, the petals forming a circle. The upper petals are nearly black, surrounded by a distinct margin of deep rose; and the lower are of similar colour. It is a most striking sort. The trusses of flowers are large, and produced in great profusion.

**LYNE'S JENNY LIND.**—Every thing named after this exquisite songstress *ought to be first-rate*, and we think this variety has received a very appropriate designation. The qualities of this fine flower are such that it will be sought after by all who are anxious to possess *the best* of these most popular favourites. The top petals are of a rich velvety marone, surrounded with a very distinct marginal line of deep rose. The under petals delicate light peach bloom, of most excellent form, corresponding well with the upper ones. The habit of the plant is good, a point of great importance to those who grow for exhibition.

**LYNE'S STAR OF THE WEST.**—Fancy varieties are now becoming deservedly popular, and this will prove a *star* amongst the best of them. We doubt not that

Messrs. Rendle and Co., of Plymouth, will forward descriptive catalogues of their fine collection, on application; and coloured drawings, by Holden, of the above splendid sorts, may be obtained from the same parties.



### FLOEBISTS' FLOWERS.

**TULIPS.**—Amongst sorts that have been in cultivation some years, though not as yet grown extensively, in the midland counties, we may mention two byblœmens, of metropolitan extraction, which we are sure would please our north country friends; and though perhaps often wanting in what "*we Midlanders*" would require to constitute first-class varieties, still in almost any state they are attractive and beautiful. We allude to Lawrence's Friend, as near black and white as may be; and Jefferies' Royal George, a flower of somewhat similar character, being very heavily feathered or plated with black purple, on a white ground.

**RANUNCULUSES.**—Wallingford, Paisley, and Falkirk have of late years been noted localities for seedling ranunculuses. Oxford and Nottingham are, however, fast progressing in their wake; some seedlings raised by S. Moore, Esq. of the latter town, will vie with the best of those "*over the border*." Of this we are glad; our motto is (however old fashioned it may be), "*The mair the merrier*." We care not how many fresh faces we see, for though many may be inferior to old-established favourites, still it is singular indeed if some improvement does not take place. Amongst many excellent varieties, the following will do:—

*Zealand.*—Olive, with distinct dark spot.

*Mrs. Dickson.*—White, with crimson spot.

*Victory.*—Very large. Primrose, edged with light crimson.

*John Dickson.*—Exquisite form. Yellow, edged with marone.

*Claud o.*—Yellow, very distinctly spotted.

*Miss Moore.*—White, edged with rose. Extra form.

## ROSES.

**TRICOLOR DE FLANDRE.**—A most beautiful striped Provence rose, sold out during the autumn of 1846, from the nursery of M. Louis Van Houtte, of Ghent. It is a well filled rose, the ground white, striped with several shades of pink.

The following are MOSS ROSES, which will be sold during the present autumn and next spring. They are all new varieties :—

*Zerbine.*—A medium-sized flower. The colour deep rose, often spotted.

*Vauquelin.*—Deep violet. The only moss rose of this colour yet raised.

*Pompon d'Angers.*—Small flowers, of a purplish red. Very neat.

*General Drouet.*—A very prolific variety, producing its flowers, which are crimson purple, in great abundance. It is a strong grower.

*Jean Bodin.*—A deep pink globular rose. Very handsome.

*Leopoldine.*—A deep red, vigorous, and blooms freely.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## ON THE ADVANTAGE OF PRUNING THE ROOTS OF PEAR TREES.

BY MR. THOMAS RIVERS.

*From a Paper read before the Horticultural Society.*

THE author stated that in consequence of being inconvenienced by the confusion in the names of pears, he felt himself called upon to plant specimen trees of all the varieties he then possessed; but fearing that much ground would be wasted in the experiment, he endeavoured to discover some means of arresting superabundant growth, and inducing early fruitfulness. After trying the effect of planting the trees in small square brick pits, and plunging them in large

pots, both of which methods were found too expensive, he took advantage of a piece of shallow loamy soil, resting on a substratum of very hard white clay, through which he calculated that the roots of the trees would not penetrate; and he expected that the soil on the surface might be made rich enough to support the trees without vigorous and unruly growth. However, he found that the roots of trees are not so easily kept within bounds, and that those of the pears, not being able to enter the hard clay, were wandering far and wide; the branches also keeping pace with the roots, and growing much too rapidly for his calculations as to the space each tree ought to have occupied. Having previously remarked for many years, that apple trees growing in a firm loamy soil in his nursery, if removed one or two years consecutively, which in nursery culture often occurs, acquired a stunted and prolific habit, making abundance of bloom buds, and bearing profusely, it occurred to him that if he could keep the roots of his pear trees in the same state, by frequent removals, he should make them also acquire the habit he had so long observed in the apple.

But in attempting to remove his pear trees, it occurred to the author that it would be less trouble to dig a trench round them, and cut all their roots at a certain distance from the stem; and in this respect his anticipations were completely fulfilled. Specimens of various kinds of pear trees thus treated, were exhibited in support of the author's views.

In the Vallée Franche the maximum of last year's shoots were four inches. This tree was arrested by root-pruning, in December, 1838, and is now covered with blossom buds.

The Passe Madeleine, whose roots were pruned in December, 1838, made no shoots, but was covered with blossom buds.

In the Winter Nelis, the last season's growth was stated to be three inches; and the specimens exhibited were covered with blossom buds.

Mr. Rivers next proceeded to give some hints and directions as to the mode of operation. The best description of trees for the purpose of forming what he calls garden orchards, are half standards, with round well formed heads, or plants trained *en quenouille*, or dwarfs in the usual bush fashion. For immediate effect these should be prepared by annual root-pruning, for one, two, or three years, in the nursery; but if not so prepared, trees of the usual size and quality may be planted, and suffered to remain two years undisturbed, unless the soil is rich, and they make vigorous shoots the first season after planting; thus, supposing a tree to be planted in November or December, it may remain untouched two years from that period; and then, early in November, if possible, a circumferential trench, ten inches from the stem of the tree, and eighteen inches deep, should be dug, and every root cut with a sharp spade, which should be introduced quite under the stem, at about fifteen inches in depth, so as completely to intercept any perpendicular root. The treddle spade used in Hertfordshire is a very eligible implement for this purpose, as the edge is steeled, and very sharp. The following year, the third from planting, a trench may again be opened, at fourteen inches from the stem, so as not to injure the fibrous roots of the preceding summer's growth, and the spade again used to cut all the circumferential and perpendicular roots that are getting out of bounds; the fourth year, the same operation may be repeated, at eighteen inches from the stem; and in all subsequent root-pruning this distance from the stem must be observed. In the course of years a perfect ball of fibrous roots will be formed, which will only require the occasional operation of a trench being dug and the ball pared down, to ascertain whether large feeders are making their escape from it. But as this circular mass of soil will in a few years be exhausted, there is left round each tree a slight depression in the soil, or, in other words, the trench is not quite filled in, and this

circular furrow is filled with fresh night soil, which has an excellent effect. As it did not come in contact with the roots, no injury resulted from the use of such a powerful manure; but the author was of opinion that there is no absolute necessity for liquid manure, as common dung may be laid round each tree, in the autumn, and suffered to be washed in by the rains of winter, or drawn in by the worms. With regard to pruning the branches of pear trees thus brought into early fruitfulness, the author added, that all that is necessary is the occasional removal of a crowded branch; the fact being that *root-pruning almost does away with the necessity of branch-pruning*. Sometimes, however, a root will escape the spade, and then in the following summer a vigorous shoot or two will make their appearance; these should be shortened in August, to within four buds of their base, and the following autumn the feeding root must be diligently searched for. Mr. Rivers exhibited a specimen of shoots of this kind, the result of a root being left unpruned.

In conclusion, he stated that he had also practised root-pruning on apple trees, for two years, and has reason to hope for perfect success; as also with plums and cherries.

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### Part III.

## REVIEW.

THE PANSY GUIDE FOR AMATEURS; consisting of Plain Instructions for Propagation, Selection, Soil, Situation, &c. By I. F. Chater, Florist, Haverhill, Suffolk. *Haverhill: W. Dearsley. Nottingham: R. Sutton.*

WE have had much pleasure in recommending the various manuals which have appeared, on the cultivation of plants and fruits—*The Gardener's Monthly*

*Volume ; Mr. Turner, on the Dahlia ; Mr. Cuthill, on the Potato ; Messrs. Tyso, on the Ranunculus—* and we now have a fresh candidate for public favour, in the little work before us. It gives what it professes to do, "*plain instructions ;*" and these too, for every month in the year. There are some few typographical errors, but these can easily be remedied in a future edition, which we trust this very useful little manual will attain to.

As the price is moderate, we have no doubt it will be extensively read.

## QUERIES.



In your next number please give a succession of window plants, so as to keep up a show all the year round. I possess hyacinths, tulips, geraniums, calceolarias, fuchsias, balsams, egg plants, and cockscombs. Are these sufficient? and are they the best and most easy of cultivation? I am the most hare now (October). Also, I fancy, if you would give a list of outdoor hardy annuals, and directions opposite each, as to the best mode of sowing them, it would be very useful and acceptable.

I. C.

[We shall be obliged by some of our readers helping us in these matters.]

Can you, or any of your numerous correspondents, inform me if Evans's Victoria and Ely's Victoria (purple flakes) are the same variety? I have grown Evans's Victoria three years, and as far as my judgment leads me, it is a far superior sort to Ely's Victoria; though a very influential carnation grower in our neighbourhood affirms that they are both one and the same sort, and that Mr. Evans never let it out. If you can decide this controversy for me, in your next number, you will extremely oblige

J. W. B.

In the next number of your useful miscellany, be pleased to inform me which is the best mode of cultivating the bramble or blackberry bush; as the fruit of this, perhaps, despised bush is wholesome, and acceptable to the poor man, either for a pie, tart, or jam.—In laying out a garden of about a quarter of an acre, which is the best mode of arranging the currant and gooseberry bushes? Should the different sorts be placed by themselves, rather than be intermingled; as, for instance, the black currants on one side, and the red and white currants and



gooseberries taking up the second, third, and fourth sides of the garden?—In preserving carrots and parsnips, I see it is recommended to put them into dry sand; but the *Cottager's Calendar* alludes to a method of keeping parsnips, by referring to the *Gardener's Chronicle*, 1841, page 684. Pray can you give the extract which is considered the most eligible?—On your recommendation (in giving a critique on the *Gardener's Monthly Volume*), I got both volumes on the potato culture, wherein it is recommended to plant the potato in autumn, and to expose the root to the air as little as possible; whereas Mr. Paxton advises the cottager to expose the potato to the sun for some days previously to being stored away, and to plant them in April or May. As these are such antagonistic opinions as to its culture, will you inform me which is the most preferable mode?

A SUBSCRIBER.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

If the apple trees of your querist, Wm. Mason, be in a healthy state, they may be regrafted with propriety. The following sorts would be found suitable for all useful purposes, either for the kitchen or for the dessert:—Hawthornden, Keswick Codlin, Nonsuch, Yorkshire Greening, Quince Apple, Norfolk Beaufin, Red Quarendon, Autumn Rennette, Royal Russet, Acklam Russet, Ribston Pippin, Wyken Pippin, Sturmere Pippin, Golden Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, and Scarlet Nonpareil. Others might be added to this number *ad libitum*, but I should advise W. M. to see what sorts thrive best in his neighbourhood, and to procure the best sorts therefrom.

*Colney House Gardens, St. Albans, Herts.*      HENRY WOOD.

I agree with Mr. Banton's observations on seedlings from run carnations. But the two flowers he names bloom at very different seasons; Walmsley's William IV. being among the earliest, Spitfire about the latest. If Mr. B. will say by what means he contrives to bring Spitfire into bloom early enough to procure seed, he will confer an obligation on the writer, who has placed pots of Spitfire in various parts of a garden containing five thousand pair of blooming carnations and picotees, besides crossing, but without success.

AN AMATEUR.

**OUTDOOR GRAPES.**—In favourable seasons, these ripen as far north as Nottingham. Last autumn, Black Hamburg grapes ripened perfectly on the open wall, in a very central part of the town of Nottingham. Esperione is a good variety for this purpose, and the Muscadine and Sweetwater.

A youngster shall be accommodated, if he will oblige us with his address, stating the size of his garden, how situated, and the quality of soil.

R. M. will find the following five varieties of dwarf peas very good, both for their productiveness and general qualities:—Warner's Early Emperor, Cormack's Prince Albert, Woodford or Nonsuch Marrow, Lynn's Black-eyed Dwarf Prolific, and Bedman's Imperial. The three latter require sowing very thin; they follow each other in succession. If he prefer taller varieties, he may procure Early Warwick, Ringwood Marrow, Grotto Marrow (a splendid pea for table properties), Fairbeard's Champion (ex. ex.), Rolleston's Victoria Marrow, Magnum Bonum, Swan Egg, Dancer's Monastery, Wellington Marrow, and Green's late Leicester Marrow. We pledge ourselves that these will take some beating out of the field; having grown more than sixty varieties, R. M. may rely on the above being selected with care from that number. The New Royal Green Marrow we have grown this season; it is certainly a distinct variety from any other out, but nothing to compare with some of the above.

We would refer James Willis to page 559 of *Tait's Magazine*, for August; he will there find something answering his inquiries.

R. W.—Yellow Persian, which is a very handsome and double variety; it does not, however, appear to succeed well on the common dog rose, in this part of the country. Rosa Hoggii or Harrisonii, is of American origin, and is a beautiful bright yellow, but semi-double. Williams's double yellow is fuller than the preceding, but not quite so deep in colour. Of yellow climbing roses, there are several varieties of the Banksian, which have small flowers, and are extremely pretty. They will cover a great extent of trellis or wall, where the situation suits them. Of these there are the old sort, with creamy yellow flowers, and Jaune Serin, which are bright yellow, and very fine. As for yellow moss roses we believe there is yet no such thing in existence; though the French gentlemen who visited Nottingham a short time ago, sold plenty by that name, and we make no doubt that when they visit us again they will also have some equally novel. We do not suppose it is impossible to raise a yellow moss rose, and we would recommend those of our readers who are fond of making experiments, and have leisure to attend to hybridizing, to see what they can do. A fine seedling yellow moss rose would be a fortune to any one not particularly avaricious.

For the information of "Cantab," I beg leave to state, that the Deodar cedar, or Cedrus Deodara, is a highly ornamental tree; and, as far as I have seen in different parts of the country, perfectly hardy.

As you wished me to give you some information on the subject of the Sarah Ann bybloemen tulip, I now send you all in my power. In 1835 or 6, I purchased some fine breeders from the Chellaston Seedling bed; at which time the breeders had not been either numbered or named; and in order to keep the sorts distinct, I named three fine bybloemen breeders after my three daughters—Harriet, Sarah Ann, and Rose Hannah. As we have not been able to trace the two last named varieties on the seedling bed, I still grow them in the above names. I have broken Sarah Ann and Rose Hannah, both in very fine style, as flames. In '45 I had Sarah Ann in a fine feathered state, and I think you will remember that yourself and a friend came to my bed to see it. After that time Mr. Gibbons was very anxious to find out the sort; and in order to assist him in so doing, I let him have one, to sample against his breeders. He told me a few days since that he believes it is one which he has since numbered 21, but he is not quite certain on the subject. I hope this information will be sufficient to prove that I have not attempted to send the flower out as one of my own seedlings.

23, Ashbourn-road, Derby.

WM. ALLEN.

**AMERICAN SEEDS.**—WM. SMITH.—Sow half now, and the other half in the spring.

“A Labourer” may obtain a hand corn mill through any respectable ironmonger. The labour depends upon the size of the mill. The system properly carried out would be of great benefit.

**LILACS.**—I. W., Worcester.—A list of lilacs will be given in the December number, and James Willis shall then be attended to; and at the risk of giving too much about tulips, we will at the first convenient opportunity, state our own views as to breaking or rectifying breeders, for the information of our Preston friend.

**A TULIP FANCIER.**—In an old work, called *The Curious and Profitable Gardener*, by John Coward, there occurs the following passage:—“Take the plaster of old walls, wherein is a great deal of lime, and powder it very fine; mix this with drift sand, or such sand as is sharp, and found on the sea shore; to this add of the water that runs from a dunghill; mix these as well as possible, and put over the *surface* of the bed, a little before you plant your breeding or plain tulips, and 'twill make them break into fine stripes to a wonder, as is related to me by a gentleman of great honour, who has proved it, as he observes, for five or six years.” I have not at present had an opportunity of trying this plan; but if successful, it will certainly be better than to follow the recommendation of Hogg.

Stoke Holy Cross.

J. J. C.

H. A.—The fruit of the currant is borne on “spurs.” As these do not occur in sufficient abundance naturally, they may be formed artificially, by cutting the young wood down to about two eyes. Some of the young wood must be left long (ten or twelve inches), to bear natural spurs for the next season’s produce. It is clear then, that the (so called) pruning with a pair of shears (!), all being by this method cut alike close, is not “proper.” Experience would soon answer H. A.

*Stoke Holy Cross.*

J. J. C.

WEeping OR DROoping TREES.—H. L.—The New Weeping Elm is a most beautiful plant; then there are weeping birch, ash, almonds, laburnums, limes, hollies, mountain ash, willows, sophoras, &c. all very good.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR NOVEMBER.

THIS month is always a busy one; for if mild and open, every description of planting may now be done, as well as all sorts of groundwork. In the fruit garden, root-pruning (noticed among the extracts) should be performed; to trees against walls and palings, which have for years been in a most luxuriant state, producing large quantities of shoots and leaves, with very little or no fruit, this plan will be found peculiarly adapted. We have this season seen pear trees which had been root-pruned, with stems not thicker than the shaft of a small hay fork, and standing about as high out of the ground, clothed with fruit from top to bottom. For the thousands of gardens round Nottingham and other large towns, pyramidal trees are appropriate; they give the proprietor a much better opportunity of cultivating his plot of land, as well as ensuring finer fruit, and being more manageable. *Gooseberries* and *currants* may be planted; and we would advise all who are fond of fine fruit and large produce in a small space, to adopt Mr. Hall’s plan of growing them as pyramids. Some people are growing them as standards, but as the space between the head and the ground is bare of fruit, and consequently profitless, we prefer the system of having the stem clothed with fruit from the bottom.

Training *plums*, *pears*, &c. may be proceeded with at every favourable opportunity. In cutting away the shoots, *do not cut for the sake of cutting*; for the removal of any or every branch there ought to be a reason.

*Vines*, out of doors, have been extremely prolific this season. In nine cases out of ten they have been allowed to retain double the quantity of fruit that they ought to have carried; indepen-

dent of which, there has been injudicious stripping the trees of their leaves, in order to let the sun get to the fruit; the consequence will prove that the trees have been seriously injured. After the fruit is gathered, the surface of the ground should be covered with good manure, that the autumnal rains may wash it in. *Vines are greedy feeders*, and will repay all the help given to them.

Transplant *roses*, evergreens as well as deciduous shrubs. All sorts of fruit trees will do well now. In removing them, take care that as much as possible of the fibrous root is retained. When the main roots have been mangled with the spade, let the bruised parts be cleanly cut off with a sharp knife, previous to planting.

*Raspberries*, of which the Fastolff, is one of the best, should now be attended to. Fork over the ground (do not dig it), cleaning it well from root weeds, removing all unnecessary canes, and cutting out the dead wood which produced fruit last season; three strong canes may be preserved, and tied to a stake, or the tops of neighbouring plants may be brought together and tied in the form of an arch, by which means stakes are not required; it should, however, be recollected that these should be trained east and west, if possible; the fruit then gets the advantage of the sun on both sides.

It must also be borne in mind that all vacant ground should immediately be manured, and winter dug, or thrown up in ridges; it would then be ready for cropping at any moment.

*Cabbages* may yet be planted, though they would have been better planted earlier. Stone's Superb, or the Improved Sprotborough, is a fine flavoured and early sort, well worthy of extensive cultivation.

If *carrots* and *parsnips* are not already out of the ground and stored, it should be done immediately, choosing a dry day for the operation; where extensively grown the roots are *pitted*, but for small families, if placed amidst dry sand, in a cellar, they will keep well.

*Potatoes* should be occasionally examined, where practicable; when laid in large heaps, if at all tainted with the disease, the sweating or heating of so large a quantity together, increases the mischief.

All refuse, in the garden, such as decaying leaves, &c. should be got together, and placed in a heap. If the space cannot be afforded, or accumulations of this kind are offensive to the eye, burn them, and spread the ashes.

In the flower garden, *tulips* should be planted directly. We have seen excellent blooms of this splendid flower, this season, which had been grown in beds to which burnt wood and couch grass ashes had been added in small quantity. We have no doubt that charcoal added to the compost would be equally beneficial to these bulbs as to other plants.

November being often a dull and foggy month, great care must be taken of *auriculas*; giving them abundance of air on all occasions, and carefully avoiding a superabundance of wet. They are, strictly speaking, an alpine plant, naturally growing on hilly and exposed situations; therefore they must not be nursed to death, under the impression that they require much shelter.

*Carnations and Picotees*.—If the stock is not already procured, defer it till next spring. Late potted plants require much more care, and are more apt to get spotted and injured than those which are better established.

*Pinks and pansies* must be looked to. In mild weather, the large earth worm is apt to draw these out of the ground, where lately planted.

Biennial plants, such as *rockets*, *scabiouses*, and *sweetwilliams*, should be planted out; all dead tops of herbaceous plants cut away, and those of annuals removed. *Hollyhocks* may now be parted, if not done before; and all such plants as *phloxes*, *asters*, *delphiniums*, *potentillas*, &c. divided.

*Dahlias* must be carefully earthed up; and when the tops are blackened, let them be taken up, the numbers attached with metallic wire, and the plants placed under a shed for a week or two, to get thoroughly dry before finally storing.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.



### SCOTTISH PANSY SOCIETY.

The third annual competition of this flourishing society was held in Glasgow, on Tuesday the 8th of June, and the show stands, both for competition and exhibition, were generally of first-rate character, and far surpassed those brought forward at any of the previous meetings of this society and we may safely say we have never seen pansies shown in better style. We observed stands from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Falkirk, Dunfermline, Dumbarton, Renfrew, Greenock, and many other places. The society awarded 17 prizes, viz.:—

In the competition for the nurserymen and dealers, with stands of 24 blooms, the first prize was awarded to Mr. James Neilson, auctioneer and florist, Falkirk, for Neilson's Magnificent, Pandora, and Horatio, Seedlings; Thompson's Satirist, Pliny, Shakspeare, Pizarro, and Excellent; Ferguson's Rolla, Turner's Pitho and Dido, Atwell's Princess Royal, Bragg's Goliath, Hooper's Mary Jane, Hall's Rainbow, Hart's Consolation, Henchman's Success, Fairbairn's Brilliant Perfection, Hunt's Wellington, Major's Bridegroom, Cook's Star and Black Bess, Thyne's Ophir, and Collison's Daughter of St. Mark.—Messrs. Dickson and Co., Leith Walk Nursery, Edinburgh, obtained the second prize, with Thompson's Pizarro, Mulberry, Superb, and Excellent; Brown's Cotherstone, Arethusia, and Hannibal; King's President, Massa, Cook's Star, Black Bess, Finlayson's Robin Hood, Superb,

Bragg's Goliath, Yule's One in the Ring, Hart's Consolation, Hunt's Wellington, King's Hero of Bucks, Major's Sir Robert Peel and Lady Peel, Blue Perfection, Benton's Midnight, and Turner's Optimus and Dido.

In stands of 18 blooms, competed for by amateurs and gardeners, the first prize was gained by Mr. John M'Alpine, gardener to Richard Galbraith, Esq., Greenhead, Govan, with Cotherstone, Rolla, Pizarro, Jewess Suberb, Hall's Diamond, Juna, Optimus, Dispute, Overnewton, Margaretta, Mrs. Harcourt, Vernal, Beauty, Phito, Regulator, Dido, Sunbeam, Mrs. Wingate (M'Alpine's), and Isabella (Atwell's); 2. Mr. James Russell, jun., Arnotdale, Falkirk, with Brilliant, Eclipse, Prince of Wales, Cotherstone, Consolation, Goliath, Princess Royal, Optimus, Hannibal, Pizarro, Success, Curion, and 6 Seedlings; 3. Mr. James Balloch, Leven Castle; 4. Mr. Daniel M'Intosh, Parkhill, by Falkirk; 5. Mr. James Meldrum, Bothwellhaugh, Dunfermline.

Stand of 12 blooms: 1. Mr. John Gair, Falkirk, with Pitho, Model of Perfection, Pizarro, Excellent, Isabella, Trafalgar, Hannibal, Hunt's Wellington, Caractacus, Venus Victrix, Optimus, and the Prior; 2. Mr. D. H. Wallace, Orchard, Renfrew, with Cloth of Gold, Pilot, Charter, Mary Jane, Purple Perfection, Virgil, Pizarro, Purpuria Magnifica, Model of Perfection, Consolation, and Princess Royal; 3. Mr. John Downie, South Bank, Edinburgh; 4. Mr. James Don, Hay Park, Polmont; 5. Mr. Archibald Millar, Arnotdale, Falkirk; 6. Mr. James Wilson, Millfield, Polmont.

Stands of 6 blooms: 1. Mr. James Don, Hay Park, with Incomparable, Ovidius, Mrs. Harcourt, Brilliant, Rolla, and Peter Dick; 2. Mr. Daniel M'Intosh, Parkhill, with Wellington, Verax, Monarch, Fireball, and two Seedlings; 3. Mr. Archibald Millar, Arnotdale, Falkirk; 4. Mr. James Meldrum, Bothwellhaugh, Dunfermline.

The judges were Mr. M'Donald, from Drummond Castle; Mr. Watson, Paisley; Mr. Campbell, Falkirk; and a gentleman from Edinburgh; whose awards appeared to give entire satisfaction.

### PINK SHOW,

Held at the Woodman Inn, Tuesday, July 29th.

First pan, J. Bailey, Greensides, Beauty of Goslem, Kay's Mary; second pan, J. W. Bower, Greensides, Parker's Dr. Hepworth, Kay's Mary; third pan, W. Chadwick, Mrs. Foster, Seedling, Snowball.

*Dark-laced*.—1. J. Bailey, Greensides; 2. W. Shaw, Seedling; 3. W. Chadwick, Mrs. Forster; 4. J. Bailey, Dr. Halley; 5. G. Wild, Wm. Tell; 6. W. Chadwick, Seedling.

*Red-laced*.—1. J. W. Bower, Dr. Hepworth; 2. W. Shaw, Seedling; 3. W. Chadwick, Seedling; 4. J. Bailey, Beauty of Goslem; 5. G. Wild, Suarrow; 6. J. Bailey, Nimrod.

*Dark-edged*.—1. J. Bailey, Kay's Mary; 2. W. Chadwick, Snowball; 3. J. Shaw, Seedling; 4. J. Shaw, Parry's Union; 5. W. Chadwick, Lady Boldhaughton; 6. W. Chadwick, Kay's Mary.

Judges—Mr. Edward Mitchell, Leeds; and Mr. B. Ely, Rothwell Haigh.

### CARNATION SHOW,

Held the 2nd of August, at the Arboretum, Derby.

*Amateurs' Class*.—For the best pan of eleven blooms, one in each class, 1st prize to Mr. Dodwell, for Easom's Admiral Curzon, Ely's Duke of Bedford, Beauty of Brighouse, Princess Charlotte, Ely's Mrs. Ely, Wood's Princess Alice, Matthew's Enchantress, Wildman's Isabella, Kirtland's Princess Royal, Wilson's Miss Fanny Irby, and

Dickson's Sophia; 2. Mr. Broughton, for Admiral Curzon, Brown's Village Maid, Wilson's William IV., Brabbin's Squire Meynell, Nulli Secundus, Pluperfect, Mrs. Horner, Unknown, Fanny Irby, and Burrough's Sylph; 3. Mr. Parkinson, for Martin's Splendid, Mansley's Robert Burns, Wilson's William IV., Milwood's Premier, Hudson's Lady Flora, Musson's Charlotte, Brinkler's Purple Perfection, Ely's Mrs. Horner, Criterion, Green's Queen Victoria, and Lady Alice Peel.

*Nurserymen's Class.*—1. Mr. Thomas Gibbon's, for Admiral Curzon, Lord Milton, Milwood's Premier, Ely's Lady Ely, Dickson's Trip to Cambridge, Matthews's Enchantress, Joan of Arc, Marc Antony, Fauny Irby, and Barrenger's Rose; 2. Mr. Lodge, for Duke of Sutherland, Harkaway, Marquis of Granby, Princess Charlotte, Tomlin's Brisies, Hepworth's Emily, Purple Perfection, Ne Plus Ultra, Fanny Irby, and Green's Queen's Victoria.

*Prizes in Classes, for Amateurs only.*

*Scarlet Bizarres.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Admiral Curzon; 1. Mr. Dodwell, Duke of Sutherland; 2 and 3. Mr. Parkinson, Duke of Sutherland and Hale's Prince Albert; 4. Mr. Dodwell, Rainforth's Game Boy; 5. Mr. Parkinson, Twitchett's Don John; 6 and 7. Mr. Broughton, Redfern's William IV. and Hepworth's Albion; 8. Mr. Parkinson, Duke of Sutherland.

*Crimson Bizarres.*—Premier, Mr. Broughton, Brown's Village Maid; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Dodwell, Wakefield's Paul Pry, Puxley's Prince Albert, and Ely's Lord Milton; 4. Mr. Appleby, Mansley's Robert Burns; 5. Mr. Easom, Rainbow; 6. Mr. Broughton, Village Maid; 7. Mr. Parkinson, Robert Burns; 8. Mr. Lakin, Gregory's King Alfred.

*Scarlet Flakes.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Chadwick's Brilliant; 1. Mr. Easom, Wilson's William IV.; 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Dodwell, Beauty of Prighorn, Wood's Commander-in-Chief, and Ely's Prince of Wales; 5 and 6. Mr. Broughton, Foxhunter, and Madame Mara; 7. Mr. Appleby, Thornecraft's Blucher; 8. Mr. Lakin, Wood's Commander-in-Chief.

*Purple Flakes.*—Premier, Mr. Parkinson, Squire Meynell; 1. Mr. Appleby, Squire Meynell; 2. Mr. Dodwell, Premier; 3. Mr. Easom, Premier; 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Dodwell, Beauty of Woodhouse, Premier, Beauty of Woodhouse, Lord Byron, Premier.

*Rose Flakes.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Ely's Lady Gardiner; 1. Mr. Easom, Ocean Queen; 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Dodwell, Ely's Lady Gardiner, Brooks' Flora's Garland, and Easom's Ocean Queen; 5. Mr. Appleby, Easom's Ocean Queen; 6. Mr. Easom, Ocean Queen; 7. Mr. Dodwell, Easom's Elizabeth; 8. Mr. Parkinson, Miss Harriet.

*Heavy-edged Purple Picotees.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Wood's Princess Alice; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Dodwell, Burrough's President, Ely's Favorite, and Field Marshal; 4. Mr. Easom, Wood's Princess Alice; 5. Mr. Parkinson, Musson's Charlotte; 6 and 7. Mr. Broughton, Nulli Secundus and Pluperfect; 8. Mr. Lakin, Hepworth's Emily.

*Light-edged Red Picotees.*—Premier, Mr. Parkinson, Purple Perfection; 1. Mr. Dodwell, Duke of Newcastle; 2. Mr. Parkinson, Nottingham Hero; 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Mr. Dodwell, Enchantress, Duke of Newcastle, Lady Chesterfield, Sharp's L'Elegant, and Burrough's Miss Jane; 8. Mr. Parkinson, La Perfecta.

*Heavy-edged Red Picotees.*—Premier, Mr. Easom, Cook's President; 1, 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Dodwell, Ely's Mrs. Horner, Giddin's Teazer, Giddin's Teazer, and Giddin's Teazer; 5. Mr. Appleby, Sharp's Duke of Wellington; 6. Mr. Dodwell, Jessop's Sir William



Middleton; 7. Mr. Parkinson, Ely's Mrs. Horner; 8. Mr. Dodwell, Ely's Mrs. Horner.

*Light-edged Red.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Burrough's Mrs. Bevan; 1. Mr. Broughton, Unknown; 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Dodwell, Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Bevan, and Mrs. Bosville; 5. Mr. Broughton, Mrs. Horner; 6. and 7. Mr. Dodwell, Kirkland's Princess Royal and Mrs. Bosville; 8. Mr. Appleby, Mrs. Horner.

*Heavy-edged Rose.*—Premier, Mr. Dodwell, Wilson's Correggio; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Dodwell, Ely's King of Roses, Correggio, and Wilmer's Princess Royal; 4. Mr. Easom, Fanny Irby; 5, 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Dodwell, Correggio, Wilson's Julia, Fanny Irby, and Correggio.

*Light-edged Rose.*—Premier, Mr. Broughton, Burrough's Sylph; 1 and 2. Mr. Dodwell, Duchess of Beaufort and Mrs. Barnard; 3. Mr. Easom, Duchess of Bedford; 4. Mr. Dodwell, Correggio; 5. Mr. Parkinson, Lady Alice Peel; 6. Mr. Broughton, Fanny Irby; 7 and 8. Mr. Dodwell, Hudson's Madeline and Duchess of Beaufort.

*Cottinger's Class.*—Best kidney potatoes, Mr. C. Spencer; best kidney beans, Mr. C. Spencer.

*Extra Awards for Subjects not Competing in Accordance with Schedule.*—Mr. T. Cooling, gardener to M. Harvey, Esq., for six dishes of fruit; Mr. T. Cooling, for six *Celosia Cristata*; Mr. Jackson, gardener to Lord Scarsdale, for one dish of cherries; Mr. Jackson, for a device in flowers; Mr. Bailey, gardener to the Misses Strutt, for two vines in pots; Mr. John Gibbons, for six dishes of fruit and vegetables, viz.—Late Duke Cherries, Red Grape Currants, White Dutch Currants, Spring-sown Onions, and Cucumbers.

Judges—Mr. J. F. Wood and Mr. J. Clark, of Nottingham, with Mr. Williams, of Locko Park.

#### THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS, NORTHUMBERLAND.

The members of the Felton Union of Florists and Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of ranunculuses, pansies, pinks, roses, and vegetables, being their third show for the season, on Thursday the 1st of July, at Mr. Appleby's, North Briton Inn, Felton, when the prizes were awarded as under:

*RANUNCULUSES—Variegated.*—The first prize to Mr. T. Dawson, Acklington, for Sir Philip Brooks; the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th, to Mr. Wm. Harrison, Felton Bridge End, for Melange des Beantes, Tyso's Cathcart, Neilson's Queen Adelaide, and La Singulier; and the 3rd to Mr. John Crossling, gardener to Thomas Riddell, Esq., Felton Park, for Suprema.—*Self-coloured.*—The 1st, 3rd, and 4th, to Mr. William Harrison, for Nabat, Tyso's Grand Romana, and Condorcet; the 2d to Mr. Dawson, for Orange Brabancan; the 5th to Mr. R. Richardson, for Theodine; and the 6th to Mr. T. Dawson, for Admiral Keppel.

*PANSIES.*—The first prize for the best pan of six dissimilar varieties, to Mr. Crossling, for Optimus, Crossling's Blue Ribbon, Midnight, Crossling's Miss Theresa Riddell, Black Bess, and Crossling's Miss Prettyman; the 2nd to Mr. Crossling, for Miss Theresa Riddell, Black Bess, Optimus, Prince Albert, Purple Perfection, and Sulphurea Elegans; the 3rd to Mr. Crossling, for Captivation, Goliath, Miss Theresa Riddell, Optimus, Pizarro, and Prince Albert; the 4th to Mr. Crossling, for White Serjeant, Tom Pinch, Optimus, Sulphurea Elegans, Blue Ribbon, and Thompson's Regulator; the 5th to Mr. R. Richardson, Felton, for Richardson's Washington, Crossling's Wonder of the World, Jewess, Mrs. Harcourt, Thompson's Eclipse, and Waltham Abbey; and the 6th to Mr. Edward Hudson, Whittingham, for White Serjeant, William Tell, Black Prince, Pizarro, Optimus, and Tom Pinch.

The prize for the best Seedling Pansy was awarded to Mr. Crossling, for a very beautiful dark self, which he named Crossling's Little Miss Twistie.

*PINKS.*—The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th prizes were all awarded to Mr. Crossling, for Holmes' Coronation, Ward's Queen, Omega, Alpha, Dawson's Gauntlet, and Wilmer's Victoria.

**ROSES.**—The 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th prizes to Mr. Crossling, for Incomparable, Brennus, La Villa de Bruxelles, and William Jessie; the 3rd to Mr. Thomas Jeffrey, Felton, for Beaulieu; and the 4th to Mr. Benjamin Burn, gardener to Charles William Bridge, Esq., Linden House, for Madam Laffay.

### PINK MEETING,

Held at Mr. Cork's, Queen's Head Inn, Burslem, July 17.

**Purple Laced**—Premier, Mango, T. Williams; 1. Mango, D. Brown; 2. Greensides, T. Williams; 3. Lady Antrobus, T. Boote; 4. Beauty of Rochdale, D. Brown; 5. Huntsman, T. Williams; 6. Duke of St. Albans, T. Boote.

**Red Laced**—Premier, Rigby's Miss Lucy, T. Boote; 1. Bourne's Dick Turpin, T. Boote; 2. Susannah, T. Williams; 3. Williams's Thirza, T. Boote; 4. Joseph Sturge, D. Brown; 5. Sir William, T. Boote; 6. Jupiter, T. Morray.

**Black and White.**—Premier, Beauty of Blackburn, T. Williams; 1. Beauty of Blackburn, T. Boote; 2. Lady Boidhaughton, T. Morray; 3. Union, W. Wright; 4. Highland Mary, T. Boote; 5 and 6. W. Wright, Mary and Seedling.

**Judges**—Edward Barker and Robert Moorley, Newcastle; and Samuel Rigby, Spring Bank.

### SNENTON FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The second annual exhibition was held on Tuesday, August 3, in the National, School-room. The awards were as follow:—

#### CARNATIONS.

Best pan of five carnations, Mr. J. Taylor, for Patriarch, Lord Milton, Lord Byron, Earl of Leicester, Wilson's Harriet; 2nd do. Mr. John Robinson, for Gameboy, Lord Milton, Squire Meynell, Earl of Leicester, Flora's Garland; 3rd do. Mr. Buswell, for Admiral Curzon, Lord Milton, Wig's Earl of Leicester, Squire Meynell, Wilson's Harriet.

**Rose Flakes.**—Premier, Mr. Buswell, Wilson's Harriet; 1. Mr. Robinson, Flora's Garland; 2. Mr. Buswell, Rosea; 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Mr. Robinson, Flora's Garland, Wilson's Harriet, Lady Ely, Chadwick's Flora, and Chadwick's Flora; 8. Mr. Birkhead, Wilson's Harriet; 9. Mr. Buswell, Lovely Ann; 10. Mr. Hutchinson, Wilson's Harriet.

**Scarlet Flakes.**—Premier, Mr. Robinson, King of Scarlets; 1. Mr. Buswell, Earl of Leicester; 2 and 3. Mr. Robinson, Veneula and Brilliant; 4. Mr. Taylor, Rob Roy; 5. Mr. Hutchinson, Ely's King; 6. Mr. Buswell, William IV.; 7. Mr. Robinson, Ely's King; 8. Mr. Herod, Earl of Leicester; 9. Mr. Buswell, Earl of Leicester; 10. Mr. Hutchinson, Defiance.

**Purple Flakes.**—Premier, Mr. Taylor, Bellerophon; 1 and 2. Mr. Taylor, Lord Byron and Lord Byron; 3. Mr. Hutchinson, Bellerophon; 4. Mr. Birkhead, Squire Meynell; 5. Mr. Buswell, Lord Byron; 6. Mr. Robinson, Bellerophon; 7. Mr. Moore, Bellerophon; 8. Mr. Robinson, Lord Byron; 9. Mr. Buswell, Bellerophon.

**Scarlet Bizarres.**—Premier, Mr. Buswell, Lord Pollington; 1. Mr. Buswell, Prince of Wales; 2. Mr. Hutchinson, Patriarch; 3. Mr. Robinson, British Hero; 4. Mr. Taylor, Don John; 5. Mr. Robinson, Don John; 6. Mr. Hutchinson, George IV.; 7. Mr. Robinson, Colcut's Juba; 8. Mr. Hutchinson, Patriarch; 9. Mr. Robinson, Jolly Dragoon; 10. Mr. Taylor, Don John.

**Crimson Bizarres.**—Premier, Mr. Robinson, Lord Milton; 1. Mr. Hutchinson, Lord Milton; 2. Mr. Birkhead, Lord Milton; 3. Mr. Robinson, Lord Milton; 4. Mr. Taylor, Paul Pry; 5. Mr. Robinson, Paul Pry; 6. Mr. Buswell, Paul Pry; 7 and 8. Mr. Taylor, with two Seedlings; 9 and 10. Mr. Robinson, Paul Pry and Paul Pry.

#### PICOTEES.

Best pan of six picotees, Mr. J. Taylor, for Ely's Favourite, Vespasian, Sir Wm. Middleton, Sharp's Criterion, Princess Royal, Wain's Queen; 2nd do. Mr. Hutchinson, for Green's Queen, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Horner, Crask's Queen, Sir Wm. Middleton, Vespasian; 3rd do. Mr. Buswell, for Barrand's Cornelius, Mrs. Bevan, Musson's Charlotte, Nulli Secundi, Green's Queen, Fanny Irby.

**Light Rose.**—Premier, Mr. Hutchinson, Correggio; 1. Mr. Buswell, Fanny Irby; 2. Mr. Taylor, Princess Royal; 3. Mr. Hutchinson, Mrs. Barnard; 4. Mr. Taylor, Princess Royal; 5. Mr. Moore, Princess Royal; 6. Mr. Hutchinson, Dickson's Sophia; 7, 8, 9, and 10. Mr. Robinson, Princess Royal, Princess Royal, Sophia, and Sophia.

**Heavy Rose.**—Premier, Mr. Robinson, Green's Queen; 1 and 2. Mr. Robinson, Green's Queen and Green's Queen; 3. Mr. Hutchinson, Green's Queen; 4. and 5. Mr. Moore, Princess Royal and Ellen; 6. Mr. Hutchinson, Fanny Irby; 7. Mr. Robinson, Green's Queen; 8. Mr. Moore, Princess Royal, 9 and 10. Mr. Robinson, Green's Queen and Ellen.

**Light Red.**—Premier, Mr. Robinson, Sir William Middleton; 1. Mr. Taylor, Sir William Middleton; 2. Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Bevan; 3. Mr. Buswell, Mrs. Bevan; 4. Mr. Robinson, Hector; 5. Mr. Moore, Confederate; 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Mr. Robinson, Hector, Fair Ellen, Baranger's Unique, Hector, & Unique.

**Heavy Red.**—Premier, Mr. Taylor, Sir William Middleton; 1. Mr. Taylor, Sir William Middleton; 2. Mr. Moore, Robinson's Duke; 3. Mr. Robinson, Sir William Middleton; 4. Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Horner; 5. Mr. Moore, Duke; 6. Mr. Robinson, Sir William Middleton; 7. Mr. Hutchinson, Robinson's Duke; 8. Mr. Moore, Mrs. Horner; 9. Mr. Buswell, Cornelius.

**Light Purple.**—Premier, Mr. Taylor, Pluperfect; 1. Mr. Taylor, Vespasian; 2. Mr. Buswell, Pluperfect; 3, 4. and 5. Mr. Moore, Pluperfect, Vespasian, and Grace Darling; 6. Mr. Birkhead, Lee's Mary; 7. Mr. Moore, Pluperfect; 8. Mr. Taylor, Lee's Mary; 9. Mr. Hutchinson, Vespasian; 10. Mr. Moore, Vespasian.

**Heavy Purple.**—Premier, Mr. Buswell, Musson Charlotte; 1. Mr. Taylor, Nulli Secundi; 2. Mr. Buswell, Musson Charlotte; 3 and 4. Mr. Robinson, Crask's Queen and Nulli; 5. Mr. Moore, Pluperfect; 6. Mr. Birkhead, Nulli; 7. Mr. Hutchinson, Crask's Queen; 8 and 9. Mr. Robinson, Nulli and Nulli Secundi; 10. Mr. Hopcraft, Crask's Queen.

**Yellow.**—Premier, Mr. Robinson, Barrand's Euphemia; 1. Mr. Robinson, Barrand's Euphemia; 2. Mr. Moore, Martin's Victoria.

Best collection of picotees and carnations, Mr. Buswell; 2. do. Mr. Taylor; 3. do. Mr. Robinson.

Collection of roses, Mr. John Herod.

Best device in cut flowers, Mr. A. Hopcraft; 2. do. Mr. Taylor.

Best collection of cut flowers, Mr. Hutchinson; 2. do. Mr. G. Seals; 3. do. Mr. Herod.

### CARNATION SHOW,

At the Horse and Trumpet, Bradford, August 11.

Premier prize. Mr. John Hill, William Caxton.

**Scarlet Bizarres.**—1. J. Smith, Lodge's Briton; 2. J. Foradoff, Hepworth's Briton; 3. J. Smith, Duke of Leeds; 4. J. Hill, Lord Wharnccliffe; 5. I. Tordoff, Sir Robert Peel; 6. J. Smith, Walmsley's William IV.; 7. J. Hill, Earl of Mexborough; 8. J. Smith, William Cobbett.

**Pink Bizarres.**—1. J. Smith, Lord Milton; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. J. Hill, Caxton, Duke of Bedford, Paul Pry, Taylor's William IV., and Alfred; 7. H. Mitchell, Blomsbury; 8. J. Smith, Venus.

**Scarlet Flakes.**—1. J. Smith, Wilson's William IV.; 2, 3, 4, 5. J. Hill, Brilliant, First West York, Patriot, and Captain Ross; 6, 7. J. Smith, Queen of Scarlets and Marquis of Granby; 8. J. Smith, Lady Hill.

**Purple Flakes.**—1. J. Smith, Mrs. Thornton; 2. H. Mitchell, Beauty of Woodhouse; 3, 4. J. Smith, Napoleon and Queen Victoria; 5. I. Tordoff, Mango; 6. J. Hill, Bellerophon; 7. J. Smith, Invincible; 8. J. Hill, Squire Meynell.

**Rose Flakes.**—1. H. Mitchell, Lady Ely; 2. J. Smith, Elliott's Martha; 3. H. Mitchell, Fair Flora; 4, 5. J. Hill, Westminster and Miss Walker; 6. I. Tordoff, Lucetta; 6, 7. J. Hill, Lady Gardner and Queen Victoria.

**Red Picotees.**—1. J. Hill, Marc Antony; 2, 3, 4. J. Smith, Mrs. Horner, William the Conqueror, and Sharp's Hector; 5, 6. J. Hill, Seedling and Milk Maid; 7, 8. J. Smith, Mazeppa and Will Stukeley. —**Purple.**—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. J. Smith, Ely's Favourite, Nulli Secundus, Crask's Victoria, Pluperfect, Field Marshal, Miss Lilly, and Perfection; 8. I. Tordoff, Jackson's Delight.

## LEEDS OLD FLORAL SOCIETY,

At the Woodman Inn, Gower-street, Tuesday, August 10.

## CARNATIONS.

At this exhibition Messrs. B. Ely and Son gave a prize for the best pan of seven dissimilar blooms, which was won by Mr. G. W. Bower, with Paul Pry, Lovely Ann, First West York, Lodge's Britton, Hepworth's Yorkshire Hero, Crask's Victoria, and Evans's Queen Victoria.

1st pan, Messrs. B. Ely and Son; 2nd, Mr. J. W. Bower; 3rd, Mr. Thos. Leach.

Premier bloom, J. W. Bower, Lodge's True Briton.

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—1. J. W. Bower, Lodge's True Briton; 2. B. Ely and Son Hepworth's Leader; 3. T. Leach, Hepworth's Brilliant; 4, 5, 6. B. Ely and Son, Patriarch, Jolly Dragoon, and Duke of Richmond.

*Pink Bizarres*.—1. J. W. Bower, Paul Pry; 2. B. Ely and Son, Milton; 3. W. Shaw, Duke of Bedford; 4. B. Ely and Son, Caxton; 5. W. Chadwick, Rainbow; 6. B. Ely and Son, Sir Rowland Hill.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1. W. Chadwick, Ely's King of Scarlets; 2. B. Ely and Son, William IV.; 3. T. Leach, Captain Ross; 4. B. Ely and Son, Brilliant; 5. T. Leach, Adenbrook's Lydia; 6. B. Ely and Son, Princess Alice.

*Purple Flakes*.—1. B. Ely and Son, Ely's Victoria; 2. J. W. Bower, Evans's Victoria; 3. B. Ely and Son, Seedling, 26; 4. T. Leach, Unknown; 5. J. Boshill, Jolly Angler; 6. J. Bailey, Charlotte.

*Rose Flakes*.—1. B. Ely and Son, Lovely Ann; 2. T. Leach, Barrenger's Apollo; 3. B. Ely and Son, Lady Ely; 4. J. W. Bower, Unknown; 5. G. Wild, Duchess of Devonshire; 6. J. W. Bower, Unknown.

## PICOTEEES.

*Scarlet—Heavy Edge*.—1, 2. B. Ely and Son, Sir Robert Sale and Mrs. Horner; 3. J. W. Bower, Hepworth's Yorkshire Hero; 4. J. Boshill, William the Conqueror; 5. W. Chadwick, Marc Antony; 6. G. Wild, Unknown.—*Light Edge*.—1, 2. B. Ely and Son, Mrs. Brown and Seedling 34; 3. W. Chadwick, Judy Ann; 4, 5, 6. Unique, Anacreon, and Unknown.

*Purple—Heavy Edge*.—1. B. Ely and Son, Favourite; 2, 3. W. Chadwick, Nulli Secundus and Prince Albert; 4. W. Shaw, Field Marshal; 5. B. Ely and Son, Seedling 90; 6. W. Chadwick, Mrs. Lilly.—*Light Edge*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. B. Ely and Son, Seedling No. 72, Seedling No. 64, Kirkland's Victoria, Duke of Newcastle, Unknown, and Unknown.

Judges—Mr. James Bramma and Edward Mitchell.

## THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS, NORTHUMBERLAND.

The members of the Felton Union of Florists and Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of Carnations, Picotees, Fruits, and Vegetables, being their fourth show for the season, on Monday, the 16th of August, at Mr. Leighton's, the Coach and Horses Inn, Felton, when the prizes were awarded as under:—

**CARNATIONS**.—The 1st prize to Mr. William Harrison, Felton Bridge End, for Headley's William Cobbett; the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th, to Mr. Thomas Dawson, Acklington, for Ely's Lord Howe, Chadwick's Brilliant, Puxley's Prince Albert, and Mansley's Robert Burns; and the 5th to Mr. Benjamin Burn, gardener to C. W. Bigge, Esq., for Lowe's Marchioness of Westminster.

**PICOTEEES**.—The 1st and 2nd prizes to Mr. Thomas Dawson, for Wilson's Pluperfect and Ely's Great Western; the 3rd to Mr. John Crossling, gardener to Thomas Riddell, Esq., Felton Park, for John's Prince Albert; the 4th to Mr. Benjamin Burn, for Jessop's Sir William Middleton; the 5th to Mr. William Harrison, for Ely's Emperor; and the 6th to Mr. Benjamin Burn, for Brinkler's Purple Perfection.

The prize for the best seedling carnation was awarded to Mr. Crossling, for a seedling of this year, which he named Crossling's Thomas Riddell, Esq.; and that for the best seedling picotee was awarded to the same gentleman for Crossling's Sir George Grey.

## Part X.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## THE PINK:

ITS FORM, COLOUR, AND MARKING, WITH DESCRIPTION  
OF A FEW FINE SORTS.

BY MR. BATES, OF OXFORD.

I AM induced by the observations of several of your anonymous correspondents, to offer my opinion on the standard properties of the pink, as also the advantages likely to ensue, if a uniform principle could be adopted, in awarding prizes to this and every other florists' flower. If it were possible to effect that object in *this* flower, then I should say the greatest stumbling-block is removed, and the rest would follow as a matter of course. The difference of opinion as to the requisites of the pink is greater than in any other fancy flower. At page 69, the question is asked, "What ought to be the minimum quantity of petals a flower may be staged with, in this neighbourhood?" If your worthy correspondent had withheld the three last words, I should have said the question *so raised* involved the object at which numbers have been aiming. If florists could only be brought to agree what *should be* the *minimum* diameter of a flower, containing a given number of petals, and that none below such standard be considered eligible for exhibition, this point gained would settle the most important part of the question at issue; as it is reasonable to suppose that persons ignorant of the integral points of worth in this flower would not be selected to award prizes. Why may not this point be determined in a flower, as is the case when exhibiting melons? It frequently occurs that the decision is ("to the best *fruit* not less than a

pound,") to quality, and not to bulk. I believe the metropolitan florists, and the cultivators of this flower residing in the counties of Oxford, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Warwick, Worcester, and Gloucester, may be brought to a union of opinion; but how our brethren of the west and north are to be brought to an agreement I am at a loss to understand: for one party are so bigotted to size, that they exhibit their blooms on collars made of cards, because the guard petals will not support the pondrous weight of petals of which their flowers are composed; while the other consider eleven petals enow to form their specimens for exhibition. I am not aware that such incongruities exist with respect to any other flower; and hence arises such extreme difficulty in arranging so desirable an object as a uniform standard.

A correspondent, at page 176, says, "there can be but one opinion as to what is the principle which *dictates* the standard of perfection in all florists' flowers, as regards the circle and half-circle." Every florist ought to understand that the more closely the base petals of a pink approach a circle, the nearer it approaches perfection, particularly when that object is attained by not more than six petals; and in naming six, I consider it the best number to form a guard with, as the interstices are less distinguishable; although your correspondent, at p. 177, says five petals are more in accordance with the natural formation of the flower. Five divisions will always have angular deformities, let the formation of the petal be as perfect as it may. I here beg to ask your Birmingham friend whether the Beauty of Shrewsbury, Duke of St. Albans, Lord Calthorpe, and Lord Littleton are ever found with six tier of petals, which he is pleased to inform your readers approximates to their standard of judgment? These varieties used to be favourites there; and when it is stated that Jones's Huntsman and Headley's Duke of Northumberland are still very much esteemed, I am at a loss to comprehend what is intended to be conveyed.

A North Staffordshire Florist, at page 153, says, "no flower to contain less than twelve petals, and that it is to be quite flat, except a crown formed with a few inner petals." The same person appears to feel, in common with his brother florists, the necessity of a uniform standard, and hopes, through the medium of your work, to see so desirable an object accomplished. Having long wished to lend a helping hand in furtherance of the measure, I beg to state my opinion as to the best means of obtaining it. In localities, uniformity of judgment can only be obtained by having recourse to *written laws*, founded on mathematical principles, carried out by arithmetical calculations. Having settled the minimum size, say two inches in diameter, and that no pink shall be eligible unless it contain twenty-one petals, then proceed to the discussion of form general, as also integral form. Form general cannot approach perfection unless the petals of which it is composed are properly proportioned; petals forming the outline, or guard, should be broad at the shoulder, measuring two-fifths of the diameter of the flower; the flower containing not less than three tier of petals, gradually diminishing towards the centre, where three small petals may be set up, displaying the colour towards the point, to form a crown. Such a flower may be composed with about twenty-one petals, which I conceive is the smallest number eligible for exhibition; two more tier of petals will give it a sufficient degree of convexity even to satisfy the advocates of full flowers, unless they are admirers of confused mops. A pink containing from twenty to thirty-two petals, formed as described, will display the lacing, if the flower is properly dressed and imbricated; as also a circular eye.

Your Birmingham friend, in speaking of the half-circle, is, I presume, by that description, understood to allude to the rise of the flower towards the centre, in conformity with Mr. Glenny's notion respecting the form of a pink, which he says should be spherical. On this point Mr. G. and myself are at issue, agree-

*ing to differ* as to the attainment of such a flower. I dispute the possibility of a pink rising to the elevation of an angle of forty-five degrees. Picture a pink, two inches across, rising one inch in height. Before I can imagine such an object attainable, looking to the point from whence all the petals are produced, viz. the base of the pericarpium, it must be obvious, if the centre of the flower rise an inch, the petals forming the centre ought to be three-fourths of an inch longer than the guard petals. However grateful dame nature may be for all the assistance she receives, she will not admit force; therefore I am content when I get an elevation of from twenty-five to thirty degrees. It is almost invariably the case with flowers composed of more than three or four rows of petals, that as they decrease in size towards the centre, the lacing becomes coarser, and many petals are without white, which, if allowed to remain, would disqualify the stand, or bloom, as the case may be.

Having given you my idea of form general, I will now state that by integral form is meant the construction of the petal, which is to be broad, flat, and firm, unserrated on the edge, or as much so as you can get them. This is an object every cultivator should endeavour to attain: much remains to be done ere we arrive at perfection in this point. Notwithstanding the many thousands of seedlings raised annually, it is a strong manifestation of the inclination to degeneracy in this flower. About thirty-five years ago, Davey, of the King's-road, Chelsea, sent out the first rose-leaved pink, called Eclipse; shortly after, followed Duchess of Devonshire, Venus, and Britannia, Clarke's Adonis, Westlake's Hero, Nixon's Marquis of Blandford, and Barrett's Conqueror. These were the crack blooms here, about twenty years ago, in the class of smooth-petalled flowers. But the greatest improvement in petal was attained about eight years since, in Creed's President, a flower combining every attribute except size, which, for southern growers, is quite as small as they like; yet



it is seen in almost every stand, thereby showing that quality is recognized, although the flower is frequently found in company of a very different character. It has been a matter of surprize to me that it is not exhibited in the midland and northern districts. Since President appeared, Hodge's Gem, Mellona, Mars, and Pluto, Garratt's Alpha and Queen of Roses, Kirtland's Dr. Daubney, Gaylad, and Melrose, Brown's Model and Garland, Norman's Duke of Wellington, H. Creed, Answorth's Omega, Weedon's Queen, and Willmer's Elizabeth, have been introduced. In 1845, were sent out Ward's Great Britain, Turner's Masterpiece, Hale's Queen of England, Smith's John Hampden, and Hastings' Tom Long. Of these the Queen is by far the best; approaching nearer a rose leaf than any of the preceding, but not quite broad enough at the shoulder, nor is the petal quite flat.

The next point for observation is the colour; the distribution of which is quite different to the carnation or picotee. The substance of the lacing to be in proportion to the size of the flower, and carried out to the extremity of the petal; no white should appear beyond the lacing, which ought to be of the same colour as the eye; in fact, there seldom is much difference, except in very full flowers, where the lacing is sometimes faded before the eye is expanded. This imperfection does not occur so frequently in the dark classes as in the red; the colour of the latter changing to purple. As we exhibit none but laced pinks, the character of the lacing is a very important consideration. This point is not so much thought of either in London or the west. With such conflicting opinions as at present exist on the properties of this flower, I am not arrogant enough to entertain the notion that my opinions will be uniformly adopted; but if, by temperate discussion, some uniform principle can be agreed upon, so that in the event of open exhibitions taking place, the exhibiter from a distance may have some idea what character of flowers he

ought to show, to have a chance of success; if we can arrive at a settled principle, even should some parties sacrifice a portion of their opinions to effect so desirable an object, or even if the principle sought were slightly in error, it would be preferable to the present undefined system. I shall briefly sum up my ideas, commencing with the *character* of the petal, as the material with which the structure is to be erected. If the petal be two-fifths of the breadth of the flower, flat, firm, and unserrated, let it count three points; if serrated, with the same qualifications, only two points; if narrow, or cupped, being unserrated, one point, but if serrated, none. General form, base circular, composed of first-class petals, thirty in number, three points; if second-class petals, two points; being flat, or composed of third-class petals, one point; but if flat and serrated, none. When the colour is brilliant and laid on steady, that is, equally round the edge, let it take two points; if faded, or irregularly marked, one point only; and if faded and irregular, none. Size can only take one point. In order to illustrate this system, I have selected

	PETAL	FORM.	COLOUR.	SIZE.	
<i>Duke of Northumberland</i> AND	2	1	2	0	5 points
<i>Jones's Huntsman</i> . . . . .	2	1	2	1	6 points, wins

I now proceed to give you my opinion of some of the new flowers, that were sent out last year, from this district.

*Kerr's Harriet*.—Petal, broad, flat, firm, rather serrated; form, outline circular, with four tier of petals; colour, red, very constant in lacing; size, moderate.

*Kirtland's Lord Valentia*.—Petal, first-class; form, first-class, contains upwards of thirty petals; colour, dark purple; size, good; pronounced the best pink ever exhibited at Oxford.

*Smith's British Yeoman*.—Petal, first-class; form, outline very good; depth of petals, four tiers; colour, light purple; size, large.

*Smith's Princess Royal*.—Very similar to the former, but not so large.

*Smith's Goliath*.—Petal, second-class ; form, first-class ; colour, lower petals well laced, centre, coarse ; size, large.

*Bragg's George Glenny*.—Lower petals good, centre petals small ; form, first-class ; colour, dark ; lacing, good, except in the centre ; size, large.

*Henbury's Delight*.—Petal, first-class ; form, thin ; good outline ; colour, rose ; lacing, first-class ; size, small.

*Henbury's Beauty*.—Properties like the last.

*Looker's Duchess of Marlborough*.—Petal, first-class ; form, third-class, as it has only five guard petals, the base not circular, nor does it lie smooth towards the centre ; colour, second class, a light rosy purple, not distinct ; size, good.

These flowers are all worth adding to a collection, and the enabling your numerous readers to secure them, is one of the objects I have in view, in writing at this period.

Should I consider it necessary to reply to any observations on this subject, I trust it will be fully understood that my only object in so doing, will be to elucidate a subject on which so much difference of opinion exists, and not for the purpose of sarcastic criticism. It is often said that one who offers a remedy for an acknowledged evil is more valuable than he who only complains of its existence, and concurring with that adage, I hope to see much more discussion on this subject, through your work ; and that in districts where pinks are grown extensively, the cultivators will express their opinions, either officially, or by some one appointed for that purpose, so that some principle may be adopted ; and when it is acknowledged to be as correct as may reasonably be expected, that it will be reduced to writing, and upon all occasions govern the decisions of the umpires. I maintain that justice cannot be administered with that degree of equity from oral as from written laws. South-east of this city, the greatest number of growers will be found in Bucks, Berks, Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent ; many of whom are capable of forming a correct opinion, and will adopt it, when it does not interfere with their own arrangements. It has often been my lot to witness the capricious character of their

decisions. When one person's flowers have possessed all the necessary qualities except size, then the umpires have been drilled to determine on superior attributes, independent of size; and on other occasions, the same person has endeavoured to bias the umpires in favour of what are termed *good haycock flowers*, composed perhaps of sixty petals. To do away with such an earwiggling system, at the exhibitions of a society, place in the hands of the persons selected to award prizes, the rules laid down by *that* society, and beg them to understand that all adjudications are to be made in strict accordance with those rules. If any person see cause to question their adherence to such laws, let him have power to call the attention of the committee to the breach of the rule; and if the decision be not reversed, let the complaining party be subject to a fine for questioning such decision; but if the complaint be well founded, then let such error be amended, without changing the position of other exhibitors, as to any previous judgment. Full discussion on the properties of every fancy flower must have a beneficial tendency, in bringing us on the road towards truth. On this subject there can scarcely be a difference, when we refer to the uniformity of opinion now existing on the properties of the dahlia, which has been accomplished by that means alone, and for which we are greatly indebted to Mr. Glenny.

*Oxford, September 23, 1847.*

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## NOTES ON A FEW FAVOURITE TULIPS.

BY U. S. X.

*Hamlet* (Brown's).—A second-row bizarre, of the very finest properties. The cup is remarkable for compactness and purity. It is feathered most *correctly*, flamed with a rich blackish purple, the yellow is a little fainter on the outer petals than the inner. Even with this defect, I believe it to be perhaps the finest flamed bizarre grown. It is very steady in marking, and inclined to be late.

**Thomas Brown (Brown's).**—This very splendid bizarre has been described as only a break of Polyphemus, to which, having seen it bloom several times, I cannot trace any close resemblance. The cup is very pure, and short, with a pale yellow ground, feathered with dark purple, nearly black. The foliage is much shorter and thinner than Polyphemus. It can scarcely be classed as a fourth-row, an ordinary sized bulb, reaches easily to the third row. This fine flower is rather late. I believe it is in few hands, *correct*, but should be in every fine collection.

**Salvator Rosa (Brown's).**—In a descriptive catalogue, published a year or two ago, this flower is said to be the *finest byblœmen cultivated*; not having seen all the *gems*, I cannot entirely bear out this assertion, but shall place before your readers its claims for *championship*. The cup is shaped like Polyphemus, with petals of immense substance; so much so, that after having been opened for a day or two, the cup never closes; the feather is a dark reddish purple colour, the *flame or beam paler than the feather*; the bottom is beautifully pure. It is, like Brown's flowers, rather late, and not remarkable for steadiness. When caught fine, it is most certainly a splendid specimen of a flamed byblœmen.

**Rose sans Egale, alias Groom's Juliana.**—A very beautiful flamed variety, something in the style of Catalani. The cup is pure, quite narrow enough in the bottom, and worthy of a place in the finest collection. Fit for the second row.

**Osiris (Greig's).**—A singularly beautiful bizarre. The cup is of fine form, with a rich orange yellow ground, and splendidly feathered and flamed with bright red, nearly scarlet; its only defect is a slight speck at the base of the stamens; a very steady marking variety, and an ornament in any bed. First row.

**Maria (Goldham's).**—This very beautiful rose should be more universally grown, as it is very steady in character. The cup is good and pure, correctly feathered and flamed with a clear scarlet; the top of the stamens is sometimes slightly specked. Its place is the third row.

**Solon (Clark's).**—Has a very fine cup, with a pale clear yellow ground; the petals are wholly without feather, with a broad beam up the centre; it is quite pure in bottom and stamens. Certainly a very beautiful variety. First row.

**Ariadne (Franklin's).**—A second-row rose, of peculiarly beautiful character; the cup pure, compact, and of a pearly whiteness; the petals flamed with a bar of rich crimson, without any feather; quite a *gem*.

**Queen (Rutley's).**—A fourth-row byblœmen, very weak in the stem, the cup very large and pure, feathered with a dark purple; the petals expand very freely in hot weather. Many inferior flowers have been sent out for this very scarce variety.

**Duke of Devonshire.**—Was broken by Mr. James Dickson, of Acre-lane, Brixton, Surrey, from a breeder purchased at the sale of the celebrated Mr. Clarke's stock. Many spurious varieties have been sent out for this splendid flower. The cup is pure and fine, with a clear yellow ground, finely feathered with black; it is inclined to bloom early. Before it falls, the petals show a disposition to open at the bottom, or *quarter*. When out of character, the Duke has a very mediocre appearance; when *fine*, the *finest of the fine*. Fourth row.

**Thalia** (Clarke's).—A magnificent specimen of a flamed byblœmen; the cup large, a little long, and tight in the bottom; the petals are of great substance, feathered, and flamed with rich dark purple; the ground is of snowy whiteness, with pure bottom and stamens. Late in blooming. Fourth row.

**Musidora** (Clarke's).—This is very short in the cup, with finely formed thick petals, pure bottom, finely flamed and feathered with reddish purple. Spurious varieties are frequently sent out for this very fine byblœmen. Third row.

**Camuse de Cruix.**—A fine specimen of a correctly flamed rose. When opening, it is of a pale straw colour, which requires *sun* to bleach out; the flame is of brilliant scarlet, with *rays* at the bottom, which I will term *starlike*; it is also finely feathered; the cup is rather tight in the bottom; the petals too straight for a perfect flower. It is, with all defects, an extremely pretty variety. Second row.

**Apelles** (Clarke's).—A very scarce bizarre, in form and singular marking much like Camuse de Cruix; the cup is pure, and a pale yellow. A strain of this flower comes only with a neat black feather. Third row.

**Lavinia** (Clarke's).—Has a large and finely formed pure cup; sometimes it is beautifully feathered, at others, flamed. After standing in bloom a few days, the colour deepens, from a rosy tint to a byblœmen, in which class it is sometimes exhibited. Third row.

**Madame Vestris** (Lawrence's), alias *Clarke's Clio*, alias *Rutley's Princess Sophia of Gloucester*.—A heavily flamed and feathered rose, pure, and of good form, the anthers diminutive. Sometimes it is, like Lavinia, shown as a byblœmen. Second row.

**Duke of Clarence** (Middlecott's).—When this fine bizarre is in the feathered state, it is nearly a match for Devonshire; it rises to a fourth-row, with a finely formed pure cup, and generally comes early into bloom.

**Glencoe.**—This bizarre has a fine cup and pure bottom, with a rich yellow ground, finely flamed and feathered; in its general habit unsteady, but when in character, one of the finest that can be grown. Second row.

## ON PRUNING CURRANT TREES.

I HAVE noticed in a late number of your useful little work, now lying before me, a query by H. A. respecting the pruning of currant trees, and I beg leave to say that the "old man's" practice of cutting them with "shears" is a most barbarous and unscientific mode of treatment. H. A. should procure his young trees with straight clean stems, from six to nine inches high, from which the branches should rise in open order; having them crowded is a great evil. It is a good plan to tie the branches, when young, to stakes, not less than six inches apart, rather spreading outwards, bowl shaped, permitting but few in the centre. I will now suppose that a requisite number of branches have been obtained, by properly heading down the young trees, and disposed *seriatim*; then, as they proceed in growth, the leaders should be shortened to six inches, at the winter pruning, and all the laterals cut to one or two buds. By this mode, they will look apparently worthless stumps, but the fruit they will produce (premising soil and site suitable) will be a great deal finer than that borne on much handsomer looking trees. Perhaps no fruit tree is more susceptible of proper treatment. One thing greatly neglected is summer pruning; at that period all the laterals should be shortened one-third, which will cause the fruit buds on the spurs to set more plump, and consequently be productive of much finer fruit. I consider training currant trees "*en pyramide*" (as mentioned by Mr. Hall) a great improvement on the old modes of treatment.

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Mr. F. Fox, of Cliff Vale, Staffordshire, has a variety of *Menziesia polifolia rubra*, which bears spikes of red and white flowers on the same plant. It has retained this singular mode of flowering during the past four years.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

RABY CASTLE, *ALIAS* MAY'S VICTORIA, *ALIAS* HAUGHTON CASTLE RED CURRANT.—We allude to this really meritorious fruit, not only for its intrinsic good qualities, but to guard our readers against purchasing the same variety under different names. A short time ago, we saw in the *Gardener's Chronicle* a notice of a peculiarly fine currant received from Raby Castle, in Northumberland. It struck us at the time that this probably might be the same sort we had received from that neighbourhood, under the name of Haughton Castle Red Currant. We therefore wrote to the party who had sent the fruit to London, requesting information as to whether it was a new variety, or whether it was what we supposed it to be, (at the same time *enclosing a postage stamp*). We were rather surprised, under these circumstances, that no notice was taken of our application, having heard that Mr. R., the Duke of Cleveland's gardener, was not only clever, but a particularly polite man. Be this as it may, the week after, a nurseryman of the immediate neighbourhood advertised it, without any alias being specified, as "*The Raby Castle Red Currant*." Another also offered it for sale as "*May's Victoria, or The Raby Castle*." Now as May's Victoria has been before the public something like eight or ten years (*to be within the mark*), we conceive it is hardly fair to introduce it as something new. We have considered ourselves in duty bound to say thus much, not with the slightest intention of depreciating the fruit, for we would advise all our readers who do not yet possess it, to get the Haughton Castle Red Currant (the original name), fully assured that they will not be disappointed.



**MYATT'S LINNÆUS RHUBARB.**—We have had a very high character with this fine variety. A friend of ours who has seen it growing, and on whose good judgment we can implicitly rely, informs us that it is earlier than the Victoria, (raised by the same parties), equally or nearly as large, of first-rate flavour, and extremely delicate and tender.

Several correspondents have asked us relative to **MITCHELL'S PRINCE ALBERT RHUBARB.** Our only reply is, that it does not appear to suit such northern counties as Nottingham or Staffordshire. We have had several complaints against it, from the latter county. Perhaps we shall have a little more to say on this variety (we hope in its favour), as our friends who are growing it send their reports in.

**NEW PEAS.**—The following are two new and quite distinct varieties; they are abundant croppers, and of delicious flavour; and though the price (4s. per quart) appears rather high, still we believe that amid the numerous fine sorts at present cultivated, Butcher's Early Glass and Girling's Danecroft early peas, will, during next summer, occupy a prominent position.



## NEW CARNATIONS.

The following are thus described by Mr. John Dickson, of Acre-lane, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, a good authority in all that pertains to the carnation or picotee:—

**Holliday's Mr. Banton.**—Rose flake, a capital variety for exhibition, pod long, flower large; petals fine in shape, of good substance, and smooth on the edges; marking very distinct and regular, colour a deep rose, white good, habit of the plant free, and for exhibition should be reduced to two buds.

**Holliday's Lord Rancliffe.**—Scarlet bizarre; a very superior variety for exhibition. We should recommend it to be grown in every collection. Pod long, flower large and well formed; petals fine in shape, of good substance, and smooth on the edges; marking regular and well defined, colour brilliant, white good, habit of plant strong, and will carry two blooms on a stem, fit for exhibition.

*Holliday's Queen of Purples*.—Purple flake, a very useful variety for exhibition, pod long, flower large, petals of good substance and smooth on the edges, marking whole and well distributed, colour a light purple, habit of plant strong, and will carry two blooms on a stem, fit for exhibition.

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## HARDY PLANTS AND SHRUBS.

**PLUMBAGO LARPENTÆ** (*Lady Larpent's Leadwort*).—This is said to be a most beautiful plant, (a wood engraving of which is given in the *Gardener's Chronicle* of Nov. 6). It has been introduced since Mr. Fortune's return from China. The flowers are of deep violet, tinted with red in the throat. It will be well adapted for bedding out, blooming late in the autumn. The first living specimen was exhibited at a meeting of the London Horticultural Society, in July last, with only three flowers on it. The same plant, at Messrs. Knight and Perry's, in October, was covered with more than 4000 blooms. Mr. Fortune found it growing on the ruined ramparts of Shanghai; but the Horticultural Society did not succeed in raising it. It has since been introduced by Sir George Larpent, who received it from Mr. Smith, in the ship *Monarch*, Captain Duncanson. Its character is thus summed up in the paper above alluded to:—"It is no doubt the *finest hardy autumnal flower* that has been obtained since the introduction of the Japanese anemone."

**ARUNDINARIA FALCATA**.—Amongst other new plants worthy of notice, we may mention a hardy bamboo. This plant will doubtless be extremely picturesque on the margins of rivers, ponds, and brooks; independent of which it will also be grown extensively for gardening purposes. It has been introduced from the Himalaya Mountains, in India, where it flourishes at an elevation of from eight to ten thousand feet, and where snow, during the winter, often lies from ten to twenty feet in thickness. For trellises,

climbing plants, and all other purposes to which the *Arundo donax* is put, this variety, which will flourish in Great Britain, will be extensively used. In its native country it attains the height of thirty to forty feet, forming what we in this country should liken to beds of gigantic reeds.

**THE SMALL-FLOWERING BERBERRY.** (*Berberis parviflora*.)—This is a beautiful slender growing evergreen plant, with blossoms of a deep golden orange colour. It flowers in May, and will be found an acquisition to any collection.

**BERBERIS HYPOLEUCA.**—This is also a very fine evergreen shrub, with extremely handsome foliage; and to those of our readers who like ourselves are great admirers of this interesting tribe of plants, we are sure this notice of these two new sorts will prove acceptable.

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**TRIOMPHE DE MALINES PÆONY.**—This most beautiful tree pæony has been originated on the Continent, from seed, by M. Henri Van Keel, of Malines, Belgium. We saw it at Ghent, in the summer of 1845, and certainly it was worthy of all that has been said in its praise. It is much more double than the tree pæony (*Pæony montan*) of our gardens; the flowers also being of excellent form, and a most vivid rosy pink. It is also highly desirable not only for its beauty, but for its very agreeable odour.

The **VERBENA** is now so universal a favourite that any new and fine variety is eagerly purchased for the embellishment of the parterre; and few plants afford so delightful a contrast, or are better adapted for this purpose, than this beautiful tribe. Scarlet Defiance is a first-rate variety; the stock has been purchased at a very high figure by Mr. C. Turner, of Chalvey, and will be let out to the public next spring, of which due notice will be given.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## PRACTICAL

## HINTS FOR THE CULTIVATORS OF SMALL GARDENS.

A FLORIST can do wonders with a very small bit of ground, and no great quantity of glass; with a little labour, and not much expense. Twenty rods of ground, in a good situation, will enable him to compete with a whole nursery, and, with care, distance very large cultivators. Twenty rods of ground may be about twenty-two yards wide, and twenty-eight yards long. The preparation of this, for the growth of florists' flowers and plants, is, under present circumstances, not a very expensive affair. Say we begin with about six frames and glasses, such as are made for hot-beds, and also used to protect things in winter; the general size of these lights is five to six feet long, and three feet six inches wide. Some have these frames made so as to have two or three lights to one box; but there are many good reasons to prefer those frames with only one light to a box, as they are easily removed, and can be used for different things, independently of each other. We must premise, that for winter protection, the ground on which these frames are to stand, should be paved, or bricked and cemented, or slated, or made with asphalte, as in no case is it good that the ground should be in a state to absorb the damp, which is the great enemy in winter time. We will suppose the amateur florist to be a determined exhibiter of all florists' flowers; one of these lights will be filled with auriculas, one with picotees, one with carnations, one with verbenas, one with pansies in pots (size twenty-four), for blooming early, and one with store pots of cuttings, &c. The pinks will be planted out, or if not, are in small pots, in one of the frames. Polyanthus are in their open

borders, or, if grown in pots, which we do not recommend, must be also in a frame; for, be it known, that all plants, even hardy ones, in pots, expose their roots, which adhere to the side, and therefore require protection, while those in the ground do not. In this garden, there is ample room for beds of ranunculuses, anemones, tulips, irises (now becoming a favourite flower), and for a collection of that king or queen of the garden, the rose; a few hand-glasses and blooming glasses for carnations and picotees, and shades of various kinds to protect any favourite blooms. Set a portion of the ground, say one rod, separated by a hedge or fence of some kind, to hold the heaps of compost, which are always unsightly; and in this place get turfs, sand, loam, peat, cow dung, horse dung, the dung of poultry, carnation sticks, pots, &c.; place here, also, your spare hand-glasses, and all the contrivances for shading and covering. In this space, too, have your hot-bed, if you have one at all, because, to raise many seeds, even the tender annuals, it will be found requisite; and, by keeping it in this confined space, the garden may always be kept clean. In this space you should have a shed, or out-house, to keep tools and things requiring protection from the weather, and also to use for potting your plants, and keeping your seeds; and if it be built in a substantial manner, and is well weather tight, it will do to store every thing connected with the garden. Of twenty rods of ground, two might be devoted to this, which may be called the workshop part of the garden; five rods to dahlias, three to roses, one each to anemones, pinks, ranunculuses, bulbs not enumerated, and clump-flowers, such as petunias, verbenas, and pansies; two to tulips, and two to other subjects; but more or less may be given to one or the other, as the fancy of the cultivator leads him to prefer or decline them. The principal thing to look after is a good fence or wall; and as to soil, such a manageable-sized garden could almost be made new: and indeed a good deal of it would be so, for the beds of tulips, ranunculuses,

pinks and some others, would require a considerable portion of loam, if it were not the natural soil; and as we mostly have to locate where we can, instead of where we desire, we must make the best of it. The whole should be well drained, for it is a waste of labour, of seed, and of plants, if it is not. In vain may we dress the ground, and form new beds; the finest compost in the world will be spoiled if the drainage be not good, and all our labour will be lost.—*Horticultural Magazine*.



### RUST IN GRAPES.

[We extract the following article, on "The Rust in Grapes," from the *Gardener's Magazine*, in answer to several correspondents, whose vines have been affected this season. It is by Mr. James Barnes, gardener to the Right Hon. Lady Rolle, of Bickton, and one of the best practical men of the present day.]

IN the course of my practice, I have seen grapes in different noblemen's and gentlemen's places, much injured by what is termed the rust. I have heard various opinions given regarding the cause of this injurious pest, which I need not now enlarge on; but I will here briefly state a few facts amongst the many I have observed, which have caused, or induced, rust on grapes. I have been long fully persuaded, or rather convinced, that it is produced by the treatment they receive inside, and not in any way through the bottom, or border. The season is now so far advanced, that every one who has vines under glass, has them progressing in some stage; and some of your numerous readers, perhaps, will be able to ascertain in this present season some one or other of the causes I have observed, and which I am about to mention. Prevention, certainly, is better than cure; and, as the causes which produce either disease or vermin are not natural, how often do we see the one brought on in attempting to destroy or expel the other!

A nobleman's gardener, some years ago, called on me, and wondered how it was he never had seen red spiders or rust amongst the vines under my charge, as he was continually pestered with both. He then had three houses of grapes in different stages coming on, and the red spider was making sad ravages with the earliest house, which was at the time about stoning. The man asked me how he could expel the pest. I readily told him to dredge the flues cautiously with sulphur vivum: for, without caution, the remedy would prove worse than the evil. The man used the sulphur on the flues when hot, and also steamed them when hot; the consequence was, his grapes, that had previously been clear from rust, were immediately affected with it.

Another gentleman's gardener, of the old school, had a fine large vinery, with vines trained under the rafters in a complete bundle or faggot. His vines were constantly troubled with all the injurious diseases and vermin; and he attributed it to the bad bottom, which was every thing that a man could wish, lying high and dry, with a subsoil of open loose gravel and sand to a great depth. That man always made it a rule to water the flues when warm, to keep the red spider down, as he said, which was not only the means of increasing the spider, but brought him the rust into the bargain; and, no doubt, he still continues the same unnatural treatment.

I have seen rust brought on grapes by allowing the house to continue shut too long without air in the morning, and then suddenly opening it when the external air was cold and chilly; the sudden change produced rust on different parts, where the current of cold air was strongest. I have seen the rust produced through syringing with cold water; likewise through unskilful handling in thinning out the bunches; more particularly when thinning has been done late in the morning, and the vapour has been allowed to rise on the fruit before the house has had air given to it. It is sudden checks that produce rust

generally, such as we ought to guard against in houses, pits, &c. of all kinds and for all purposes. Out of doors we often see it produced after a sudden change from still, warm, growing weather, to stormy, cold, and windy weather, not only on grapes, but on plums, apricots, pears, &c. more particularly when the fruit has been in a tender, thriving, growing state.

I have always noticed out of doors, after a storm with driving wind, if the sun break out suddenly on the tender fruit, before it is dry, or has had one night's repose, the rust is certain to make its appearance; therefore I always make it a rule to guard against sudden changes with every thing under glass.

Some day, soon, I will write you a letter on the system I follow all through with grape growing, if acceptable.



### ON RAKING FLOWER BEDS.

As far as my daily observations have extended, I have always found where flower beds have been what is termed duly raked over, the flowers have been small and weak, and seldom increase much. You recommend the ground to be often stirred amongst growing crops, but say nothing about raking; then why not do the same amongst flowers, the beauties of our gardens, and let raking alone? I have a small three-tined fork, five or six inches long, and three-fourths of an inch wide, and in forking, leave the soil a little rough. No person's flowers either increase more or are finer than mine; therefore I think that raking is a very bad practice, and I hope its discontinuance will be recommended by your various correspondents, whose opinions I should like to see inserted in your valuable publication.

JOHN ATKIN.

*North Muskham, Oct. 18.*



Now your book is fairly launched amongst florists and others, I trust those persons who have made useful observations or experiments, will send the results for insertion, that others may be amused or profited by them. On looking over mine, I find the following:—Some years ago, I planted a bean, bearing a scarlet flower, amongst several others; many bees frequented my garden, and in a year or two, I observed a great difference in the colour of the flowers; they became darker every year. This year they were completely *black*. I marked them, and have procured more than three hundred beans; this sort yielding more than any other.—J. ATKIN.

ON PACKING PLANTS AND TREES.—When potted plants are sent in a bundle amongst trees, the old plan is the best, namely, to wrap a little litter round each pot, to keep them from rubbing against each other. When the plants are potted, it will sometimes save the trouble of mossing them. Always place the potted plants in the middle of the bundle. There is a practice in packing, which I shall here find fault with, and that is sewing the mats with willows instead of twine. I am buying good twine at tenpence per pound, and I find it much cheaper in the end than willows; it does not pull the mats so much in pieces, nor does it look half so slovenly. F. F.

ON RAISING CARNATIONS FROM SEED.—It appears that the French florists have an idea that carnations raised late in the year never produce a flower worth keeping. If true, what reason can be given? I once saw a large quantity of picotees, raised from seed of one kind, sown in November, in a cold frame, and I believe there was nothing amongst them so good as the parent; but that might have been the case, had they been raised in spring. However, as very few, if any, of them flowered in the succeeding season, there was nothing gained in time, and they suffered from the grub of the saw fly, which is such

a plague to florists. If it be true that tan bark repels the butterfly from gooseberries, and that soot or gas lime will deter the onion fly, perhaps some top-dressing of soot might be used with advantage for seedling carnations and pinks. Carnations sown in August appear to grow faster than those sown in spring, and soon make strong plants.

PINKS, even when grown in pots, or boxes, may be had to lace in a dry season, if sufficiently shaded from sun, and frequently supplied with a little manure-water. Soot and a little old manure, stirred in rain-water, will do. It may sometimes be given twice a-day.—A YORKSHIRE AMATEUR.

GROWING GERANIUMS FROM SEED.—Sow the seed as soon as possible in a moderate sized seed pan. When sown, they should be placed in a house with heat of from sixty to sixty-five degrees, and in a very short time they will vegetate and appear: then keep them as near the glass as possible. When fit, they should be potted into sixty-sized pots. They will require to be shaded from strong sun for a few days, till they have made fresh roots, when they should be put close to the glass again, where they will soon make vigorous plants. When they have rooted freely and grown to a tolerable size, the extreme end of the leading shoot should be pinched off, which will improve and cause them to throw out side shoots. By this time they will have filled their pots with roots, and require another shift into pots a size larger, taking care to disturb the roots as little as possible. The last or third time of potting should be in thirty-twos, which will be found large enough to flower them in. Stopping, and keeping them near the glass, promotes an early flowering. During strong sunshine in summer, it will be of great service to shade them with coarse bunting, by placing it on the glass, above the plants.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

**NOVEL METHOD OF PRESERVING FLOWERS.**—A correspondent suggests the following expedient for the preservation of flowers when in bloom, which may be useful to flower painters and others:—It is well known that the object of the existence of a plant is the maturation of its seed. This cannot be effected, as a general rule, unless the pollen dust is applied to the stigma of the flower; and if this can be artificially prevented, it has been found that the flower retains its beauty several days longer than would be the case if allowed to impregnate its seed. The experiment can be tried in two ways: either the anthers, which are the pollen receptacles, may be cut off with a pair of scissors, as soon as the flower opens, which emasculates the flower, or the stigma may be in a similar manner removed—the same end being gained, as the pollen cannot now, even if it fall upon the style, accomplish its object. Geraniums, having been thus treated, will preserve all their freshness sometimes for upwards of a week or ten days; and in their case, as the stamina and anthers are very pretty objects, it is better to remove the style of the flower entirely—none but the eye of a botanist could detect the amputation. This singular fact is not new. Sir James Smith, in the middle of the last century, discovered it; but it is not as generally known as it ought to be.—*Family Herald*.

Mr. Joseph Rust, of Eridge Castle Gardens, has grown a gourd this season, which measured six feet nine inches in circumference, and weighed one hundred and sixty-four pounds avoirdupoise. He states that the cultivation of these *monsters* is extremely simple. Half decomposed leaves being the most suitable for them; and in order to attain the size above-mentioned, only one fruit must be allowed to a plant, and that as near the root as possible.

Richard Bateman, the father of Viscount Bateman, is said to have been the first person who introduced mignonette into England, about the year 1735.

**WINTER BROCOLIS.**—By dint of good management, and a thorough knowledge of the kinds, it is possible in these days to supply a family with brocoli, or cauliflowers, all the year round. The most difficult period perhaps, is the month of January. Many new kinds have come into notice of late, and many old kinds have been revived, with new names. The following, if they can be obtained true, we would strongly recommend, for with them we have many times carried out the grand object of *constant succession*:—The cauliflower, the Cape Brocoli, Grange's Impregnated, the Branching or Sprouting, Knight's Protecting, Melville's Superior Late White, and Somers's Particularly Late White. Snow's Winter White is very highly spoken of, and we hear justly so; and the Willcove is said to be a good winter kind. Of Somers's Particularly late White, as we have it, too much cannot be said; it is so very late, that it carries in a continuous way the spring brocoli season into that of the early cauliflower, without the blank of a single day, at least so we have found it.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

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### Part III.

## REVIEW.



**THE GARDENER'S MONTHLY VOLUME. THE DAHLIA, ITS CULTURE, USES, AND HISTORY.** By G. W. Johnson, assisted by C. Turner, Chalvey. *London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. Paternoster-row. Winchester: H. Wooldridge, High-street.*

IN this little work, the peculiarities attending the cultivation of this gorgeous autumnal flower, are most excellently described; and the opinions of all the practical men who have written on it are brought to

bear on the various points which require elucidating. We cannot too warmly recommend it. Every page teems with matter interesting and instructive to the tyro who has much to learn, as well as to the successful grower, who is well versed in its cultivation.

## QUERIES.

Will you oblige a subscriber to the *Midland Florist*, by giving the addresses of three or four of the nurserymen in or about London, of whom auriculas, pinks, &c. may be obtained?

*Oxford.*

H. M. G.

[Mr. Turner, Chalvey, near Windsor—pinks, carnations, pansies, &c. Messrs. Norman, Woolwich—carnations, pinks, and pansies. Mr. Halliday, Northampton—carnations. Mr. John Dickson, Acre-lane, Brixton—carnations, auriculas, &c.]

I have a small greenhouse, which is now filled with young plants, and have no space for a quantity of two-year old geraniums. Will you oblige, by mentioning in your next number whether you approve of placing them in a cellar, without any light? or if it is possible to save them by shaking the soil off, and hanging them up?

*Oxford.*

G. B.

[In reply to our correspondent, we can say that we have preserved large geraniums (scarlets) through the winter, in a *dry cellar*; and on being cut down in spring and planted out, they bloomed freely and well.]

A LIST OF SPRING-FLOWERING HERBACEOUS PLANTS.—I shall be glad of a list of spring-flowering herbaceous plants, to bloom from March to May, with the height of each.

A SUBSCRIBER.

BROMPTON STOCKS.—I shall esteem it a favour if yourself, or some of your readers, will give an article on the culture of Brompton stocks; likewise on the hepatica.

AN AMATEUR FLORIST.

LATE-BLOOMING ROSES.—I should feel particularly obliged if you, or some of your numerous subscribers, would furnish me with a list of thirty of the best roses (for planting in a bed, on a lawn), perpetuals, or such other varieties as will flower from August till Christmas, or nearly then; the colour also, as well as an early answer, will be esteemed a favour by

*Derby.*

B. F. G.

Having erected a small greenhouse, and wishing to stock it with choice plants, would you, or any of your numerous readers, favour me with a list of plants proper for that purpose, so that I may have a succession of blooming plants, during each month in the year? Be kind enough to state in what month each plant blooms.

I. P. DUDLEY.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



- J. W. B.**—Evans's Queen Victoria purple flake carnation is certainly not the same as Ely's Victoria. The former was raised by Mr. Evans, of the Dublin Castle Inn, North-gate-street, Chester, and we believe was never let out in lots. We obtained it of him some nine or ten years ago. It is very scarce, and is a most desirable flower.
- A SUBSCRIBER.**—We doubt not the blackberry might be much improved, by judicious cultivation; and possibly by fertilizing the flowers with the farina of the raspberry, a very superior fruit might be obtained, which would grow where few other fruits could subsist.—In planting currants, we would advise them being kept together, in rows, due east and west, if possible.
- R. M.,** who asks which are the best rose picotees grown.—The best we know at present are, Wilmer's Princess Royal, Green's Queen Victoria, Gatliff's Proconsul, Marris's Victoria Regina, Barnard's Mrs. Barnard, and Garrett's Lady Dacre.
- PENN.**—The New Bess Pool is a high coloured fine shaped fruit, coming into bearing much sooner than the older variety. The tree is rather upright in habit, and grows in a pretty form.
- A SMALL CULTIVATOR.**—The largest and heaviest show gooseberry is a red, called London. Companion, Lancashire Lad, and Warrington, are all red, and well adapted for market. Whitesmith, a white berry when ripe, is very productive, and a good sort to gather green.
- A HOUSEKEEPER.**—Yes; we intend, under the head Domestic Economy, to give, in our January number, receipts calculated more particularly for the occupiers of small gardens, but which will be equally beneficial to larger cultivators; and we invite our friends who are anxious to add to the comforts, and consequent happiness of the operative, to send us any information which they think likely to be useful.
- A YOUNGSTER.**—If he has a large manure heap, he may, like me, grow two crops every year. I plant my cabbages *twenty-eight inches* apart; betwixt the rows, in spring, I plant a row

of beans, and keep taking a part of the inside cabbage leaves off. I plant my early potatoes *twenty-four inches* apart; when earthing them I leave a flat space betwixt them, and in the second week in June, I fork over the space so left, and plant, with a setting-stick, rows of the same variety of early potatoes, with sprouts on them from one to two inches in length, and if the weather is dry, I water them often; the last week in June, I take the first up, and earth up the late planted, and this year I got them up Sept. 14, and reaped an excellent crop. Just before my beans are ready to get and pull up, I either hoe or fork the ground well over, and sow turnips; when the haulms are removed, I stretch a garden line across the piece, and run an eight-inch sprittle along it; the turnips are left in rows, and are much easier thinned by the hand than the hoe. After my peas are cleared off, I plant celery and brocoli; so that my garden is always producing something for the table.

J. A.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR DECEMBER.

ONE great point in good cultivation is never to allow the land to lie idle. The garden ought now to be cleared of all refuse, which, as we noticed in November, should be placed in a heap; it is a good plan to strew salt on the alternate layers of leaves, cabbage stumps, &c.; and on the top of all a layer of soil should be put, which will be benefited by the gasses disengaged from the rotting heap. Never apply lime and manure together. Some persons, who are anxious to give their gardens a good *doing*, will adopt this plan; but they must bear in mind that lime *dispels or drives out* of the manure the *very thing* which it is most important to retain.

Throw up all vacant ground into ridges, to be benefited by the frost, sun, and air. Continue to prune *apples, gooseberries, currants, &c.*; and choose dry warm days to prune and nail wall trees.

Planting may still be performed whilst the weather continues open; though we would prefer allowing evergreens to remain till nearer spring.

Little can be done amongst vegetables. *Asparagus beds* may be salted, and dressed with the soil from the paths, into which some manure may again be dug, for next year's supply.

The soil should be drawn to the stems of early *cabbage*, and vacancies filled up, in dry weather.

*Peas*, that have made their appearance above ground, may be protected by the rods being laid on each side of the row, which will in a great measure shield them from cutting winds;

and in very severe weather, pea straw may be placed on the sticks.

In florists' flowers, the chief thing to be attended to is air and cleanliness. Avoid damp as much as possible, and encourage a free circulation amongst the pots by placing a brick at each corner of the frame; the lights need not then be removed, except in very fine weather.

*Tulip beds* must be protected by hoops and mats, in very severe frosts; and *pansies*, *pinks*, &c. should have short pieces of spruce fir branches stuck over and amongst them.

*Ranunculus beds* should be occasionally stirred, to sweeten them; and the roots, wherever kept, must be examined, and prevented from contracting mouldiness, which is fatal to them.

## FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

### TULIP SHOW,

Held at Mr. Thomas Schofields, Blue Pig, Andenshaw, May 28.

Maiden prize, Thomas Mason, Esq., Blenfalt.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, J. Heap, Trafalgar; 1. J. Heap, Surpass Catalaïque; 2. A. Tomlinson, Polyphemus; 3. T. Penkeyman, Duc de Savoy; 4. and 5. T. Mason, Unknown and Rising Sun; 6. J. Leech, Firebrand; 7. S. Dean, Unknown.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, A. Tomlinson, Lustre; 1. J. Clegg, Surpass Catalaïque; 2. J. Leech, Albion; 3. W. Waller, Lacantique; 4. A. Tomlinson, Old Sam; 5. J. Leech, Charles X.; 6. J. Cordingley, Liberty; 7. J. Leech, Charbonnier.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—Premier, J. Clegg, Blenfalt; 1. J. Clegg, Blenfalt; 2. James Knott, Ambassador; 3. J. Leech, Tout; 4. and 5. W. Hall, Roi de Siam and Gaystella; 6. James Knott, Hero; 7. W. Waller, Beauty.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—Premier, J. Knott, Incomparable; 1. J. Leech, Violet Wallers; 2. and 3. W. Hall, Alexander Magnus and Blenfalt; 4. J. Cordingley, Incomparable Daphne; 5. James Knott, Sable Rex; 6. J. Cordingley, Violet Font Noir; 7. W. Waller, Tout.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, W. Hall, Heroine; 1. James Leech, Lady Crewe; 2. J. Heap, Dolittle; 3. W. Waller, Newcastle; 4. T. Mason, Walworth; 5. James Knott, Andromeda; 6. J. Cordingley, Count; 7. W. Hall, Duc de Bronte.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, J. Cordingley, Rose Unique; 1. and 2. J. Leech, Triomphe Royale and Veata; 3. John Knott, Crewe; 4. J. Leech, Lord Hill; 5. A. Tomlinson, Brilliant; 6. S. Dean, Unknown; 7. A. Tomlinson, Duchess of Newcastle.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Leech, Sir Andrew Marvel; 2. J. Cordingley, Unknown; 3. J. Leech, Breeder.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Leech, Jephtha; 2. James Knott, Lancashire Hero; 3. J. Cordingley, Lord Byron.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Heap, Breeder; 2. J. Leech, Newcastle; 3. W. Hall, Glappra.

*Sels*.—1. John Knott, White; 2. J. Heap, Yellow.

### TULIP SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. John Shaw, Bull's Head Inn, Motham-in-Longdendale, May 29.

Feathered premier, John Ratcliffe, Comte de Vergennes.

Maiden prize, James Hinchliffe, Comte de Vergennes.

Premier, for best breeder, James Booth, Verports Incomparable.



*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Sergeson, Charles X.; 2. J. Ratcliffe, Crown Prince; 3. J. Deamaley, Surpasse Catafalque; 4. Joseph Oldham, Duc de Savoy; 5. James Oldham, Waterloo; 6. J. Hinchliffe, Trafalgar.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Booth, Old La Cantique; 2. G. Royle, Black Prince; 3. 4. J. Oldham, Surpasse Catafalque and Lustre; 5, 6. G. Royle, High Carters and Charbonnier.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. Hinchliffe, Bienfait; 2. J. Barrat, Grotius; 3. J. Shawlcross, Buckley's Forty-six; 4. J. Hinchliffe, Ambassador; 5. James Oldham, La Belle Narene; 6. Joseph Oldham, Wolstenholme's Byblæmen.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, 2. J. Hinchliffe, Sable Rex and Pyramid of Egypt; 3. Joseph Oldham, Incomparable; 4. J. Barrat, La Belle Narene; 5. Joseph Oldham, Ogden's Seedling; 6. J. Beard, Pearson's Alexander.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Booth, Dolittle; 2. Joseph Oldham, Lady Crewe; 3. James Oldham, Heroine; 4. J. Barrat, Duc de Bronte; 5. G. Royle, Compté de Vergennes; 6. J. Oldham, Lord Hill.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, 2. G. Royle, Rose Unique and Rose Vesta; 3. Joseph Oldham, Vanquisher; 4. J. Deamaley, Lady Crewe; 5. G. Royle, Triomphe Royale; 6. Joseph Oldham, Lord Hill.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. J. Barrat, Surpasse Catafalque; 2. Joseph Oldham, Andrew Marvel.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. G. Royle, Lancashire Hero; 2. J. Ratcliffe, Ap-tonia.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. J. Barrat, Lady Crewe; 2. J. Shawlcross, Duchess of Newcastle.

*Sels*.—1. James Oldham, White Flag; 2. G. Royle, Min d'Or.

Best beaten flower, Joseph Oldham, Magnum Bonum.

### TULIP SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. Isaac Heapy, George and Dragon, Lane End, Heaton Norris, May 29.

Premium prize, Owen Robinson, Baguet.

Maiden prize, Owen Robinson, Baguet.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1, 2. H. Brown, Charles X. and Magnum; 3. O. Robinson, Firebrand; 4. C. Ashworth, Beurus; 5. J. Taylor, Catafalque; 6. T. Simpson, Savoy; 7. J. Dicken, Trafalgar; 8. G. Greaves, Wellington.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. C. Robinson, Albion; 2. J. Hulton, Polyphemus; 3. G. Green, La Cantique; 4, 5. J. Mather, Lustre and Black Prince; 6. H. Brown, Magnificent; 7. G. Green, Liberty; 8. J. Mather, Cato.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. C. Ashworth, Baguet; 2. J. Hulton, Fine Flora; 3. O. Robinson, Seedling; 4. H. Brown, Bienfait; 5. A. Tomlinson, Ambassador; 6. J. Mather, Surpassant; 7. W. Alsop, Violet Winner; 8. O. Robinson, La Mare Bruin.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. J. Hague, Bienfait; 2. J. Hulton, Incomparable; 3. J. Mather, Firebrand; 4. O. Robinson, Czarina; 5. G. Green, Rex; 6. J. Hampson, Violet Waller; 7. S. Brown, Gadsby's Magnificent; 8. C. Ashworth, Siam.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Hague, Lady Crewe; 2. A. Leech, Heroine; 3. G. Greaves, Count; 4. O. Robinson, Walworth; 5. J. Taylor, Dolittle; 6. H. Brown, Duc de Bronte; 7. 8. W. Alsop, Newcastle and Hero of the Nile.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. A. Tomlinson, Unique; 2. J. Crawford, La Vandycen; 3. G. Green, Vesta; 4. J. Mather, Lady Crewe; 5. A. Tomlinson, Triomphe Royale; 6. H. Brown, Lord Hill; 7. J. Dicken, Newcastle; 8. J. Hulton, Lady Lilford.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. W. Alsop, Polyphemus; 2. J. Hulton, Dutch Catafalque; 3, 4. J. Taylor, Sunbeam and Catafalque; 5. J. Dicken, Pilot; 6. C. Ashworth.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. J. Crawford, Gibbons's Seedling; 2. J. Dicken, Gibbons's Seedling; 3. J. Taylor, Breeder; 4. J. Mather, Sportsman; 5. J. Dicken, Gibbons's Seedling; 6. J. Mather, Seedling.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. C. Ashworth, Isabella de Cheny; 2. J. Hulton, Breeder; 3. J. Mather, Newcastle; 4. J. Hallewell, Glaphra; 5. J. Dicken, Gibbons's Seedling; 6. A. Leech, Breeder.

*Sels*.—1. H. Brown, Min d'Or; 2. A. Tomlinson, White Flag.

## LEIGH.

The best exhibition of tulips ever witnessed in this town, was held at Mr. William Johnson's, Boar's Head Inn, May 29. The stage was truly beautiful, and well filled with good flowers.

1st maiden prize, P. Rosbotham, Trafalgar, and Roi de Cerise; 2. W. Postlethwaite, Baguet, and Past Lacantique.

1st stand, W. Prescott, George IV., Lancashire Hero, Heroine, Lustre, Bienfait, and Unique; 2. T. Wilcock, George IV., Bienfait, Heroine, Lustre, Incomparable, and Unique; 3. R. Prescott, George IV., Washington, Walworth, Lustre, Bienfait, and Ponceau Brilliant; 4. T. Hodson, George IV., Baguet, Heroine, George IV., Roi de Siam and Triumph; 5. H. Prescott, Magnum Bonum, Mungo, Compte, Lustre, Queen Charlotte, and Unique; 6. W. Battersby, George IV., Bienfait, Heroine, George IV., Wallers, and Unique; 7. J. Leather, George IV., Incomparable, Heroine, Josephus, Roi de Siam, and Regina; 8. J. Crompton, Lord Lilford, Bienfait, Heroine, George IV., Incomparable, and Unique; 9. W. Leather, Crown Prince, Heroine, Prince, Turner's Bizarre, Sable Rex, and Unique.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. W. Prescott, George IV.; 2. J. Boardman, Trafalgar; 3. P. Rosbotham, Firebrand; 4. R. Prescott, Duke de Savoy; 5. J. Leather, Surpass Catafalque; 6. W. Prescott, Crown Prince; 7. R. Ormrod, Lord Lilford; 8. P. Buckley, Wellington; 9. W. Batterby, Scholes' Delight; 10. J. Eaton, Gold Beures; 11. H. Prescott, Magnum Bonum; 12. T. Hodson, Dolphin.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. and 2. H. Prescott, Albion, and George IV.; 3. T. Wilcock, Lustre; 4. W. Lythgoe, Past Lacantique; 5. and 6. W. Prescott, Polyphemus, and Old Dutch; 7. H. Prescott, Sans Joe; 8. J. Eaton, Duke of Richmond; 9. H. Prescott, Turner's Bizarre; 10. J. Leather, Surpass Catafalque; 11. J. Boardman, William IV.; 12. T. Hodson, Charbonnier.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. W. Prescott, Mungo; 2. T. Hodson, Bienfait; 3. R. Prescott, Violet Winner; 4. and 5. W. Prescott, Beauty, and Lancashire Hero; 6. T. Wilcock, Baguet; 7. P. Buckley, Washington; 8. T. Wilcock, La Belle Narene; 9. and 10. W. Lea, Roi de Siam, and Napoleon; 11. W. Lythgoe, Sable Rex; 12. R. Prescott, Tout.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. W. Prescott, Atlas; 2. T. Wilcock, Roi de Siam; 3. and 4. T. Boydell, Wallace, and Baguet; 5. W. Lea, Incomparable; 6. W. Prescott, David; 7. J. Eaton, Alexander Magnus; 8. H. Prescott, Queen Charlotte; 9. and 10. W. Prescott, Sable Rex, and Bienfait; 11. P. Hilton, Tout; 12. T. Hodson, Csarina.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. and 2. W. Prescott, Lady Crewe, and Heroine; 3. W. Lea, Hurst's Rose; 4. and 5. W. Prescott, Walworth, and Compte; 6. R. Prescott, Duc de Bronte; 7. J. Eaton, Rose Vesta; 8. P. Leather, Andromeda; 9. and 10. J. Eaton, Holden's Rose, and Rose Selina; 11. W. Prescott, Hero of the Nile; 12. J. Thompson, Seedling.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. W. Prescott, Unique; 2. H. Prescott, Triumph; 3. W. Prescott, Vesta; 4. T. Wilcock, Rose Guerrier; 5. R. Prescott, Newcastle; 6. and 7. P. Buckley, Ponceau Brilliant, and Roi de Cerise; 8. H. Prescott, Lord Hill; 9. R. Ormrod, Vandycken; 10. and 11. H. Prescott, Rose Ann, and Regina; 12. W. Battersby, Lady Crewe.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. P. Leather, Polyphemus; 2. J. Thompson, Unknown; 3. J. Crompton, Seedling.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. W. Battersby, Unknown; 2. T. Boydell, Unknown; 3. W. Lea, Lancashire Hero.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. H. Prescott, Seedling; 2. R. Prescott, Rushton's Rose; 3. H. Prescott, Boadicea.

## TULIP SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. Samuel Kemps, Fenton, May 29.

Premier, R. Heath, Emperor Charles.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. R. Heath, Sultana; 2, 3. T. Hollin, Wellington and Trafalgar; 4, 5. R. Heath, Duc de Savoy and Rising Sun.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3, 4. R. Heath, for Seedling No. 1, Lustre, Glory of Holland, and Seedling No. 2; 5. T. Hollins, Rufus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5. R. Heath, for Bienfait, Countess of Flanders, Tout, Turner, and La Belle Narene.

*Flamed Byblœmens*.—1. T. Hollins, Prince Elle; 2. S. R. Heath, Amiable Blanche and Duchess de Modena; 4. T. Hollins, Gad's Magnificent; 5. R. Heath, Imperatrice Demaroc.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Hollins, Lady Crewe; 2. R. Heath, Dollittle; 3. T. Hollins, Duc de Bronte; 4. 5. R. Heath, Comte de Vergennes and Seedling.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. T. Hollins, Rose Unique; 2, 3, 4, 5. R. Heath, Triomphe Royale, Rose Monte, Walworth, and Aglala.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. T. Hollins, Polyphemus; 2. R. Heath, Sunbeam.

*Byblœmen Breeders*.—1. T. Hollins, Friendship; 2. R. Heath, Seedling.

*Rose Breeders*.—1. T. Hollins, Walworth; 2. R. Heath, Lady Crewe.

*Selfs*.—1, 2. R. Heath, Min d'Or and White Flag.

At the same house the Young Growers' Prizes were awarded as follows:—Premier prize, G. Mountford, Trafalgar.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. T. Leese, Graff Munett; 2. G. Mountford, Magnum Bonum; 3. T. Leese, Catafalque.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Hassall, Friend; 2. G. Mountford, May Queen; 3. T. Leese, Washington.

*Feathered Roses*.—1, 2. J. Hassall, Lady Crewe and Duc de Bronte; 3. G. Mountford, Dollittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. G. Mountford, Triomphe Royale; 2. J. Hassall, Unique; 3. G. Mountford, Rose Vesta.

*Byblœmen Breeders*.—1. J. Hassall, May Queen; 2. G. Mountford, Bienfait; 3. T. Jackson, Tout.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1. G. Mountford, Lustre; 2. T. Jackson, Catafalque; 3. T. Leese, Howard's Seedling.

Breeder, T. Jackson, Bienfait.

Self, T. Leese, Min d'Or.

#### FALKIRK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The second exhibition of this Society, for the present season, took place on Tuesday, 1st June. This exhibition was principally for tulips, and the competition was open to all Scotland. The Society, with the view of inducing florists to put forward all their strength, had offered a prize of a silver jug for the best pan of tulips, and one guinea for the second pan. The silver jug was gained by Mr. Archibald Johnston, bookseller, Falkirk; the second prize by Mr. Charles Jeffrey, bookseller; and the fourth by Mr. George Lightbody, florist. The flowers exhibited in Mr. Johnston's pan were—Zuili's Mary Lamb (feathered rose); Dutch Ponceau tres Blanc (flamed rose); Waterloo (feathered bizarre); Albion (flamed bizarre); David (feathered byblœmen); and Cramoisi pourpre (flamed byblœmen). The flowers in Mr. Jeffrey's pan were—Grand Cairo (flamed bizarre); Albion (feathered bizarre); Tour de Salisbury (flamed byblœmen); Armida (feathered byblœmen); Cerise primo Superb (flamed rose); and Reid's No. 39 (feathered rose).

The classes for which prizes were also given stood as follows:—Best flamed rose, Mr. Lightbody, Goldham's Maria; feathered rose, Mr. Lightbody, Astonishing. Best feathered byblœmen, Mr. Johnston, Beauti Incomparable; flamed byblœmen, Mr. Johnston, Davie's Queen Charlotte. Best flamed bizarre, Mr. Johnston, Albion; feathered bizarre, Mr. Johnston, Waterloo. Notwithstanding the backwardness of the season, the tulips were generally in fine order. Those especially of Mr. Johnston, who has had a fine bloom this season, were much and justly admired. Several good broken flowers of this season, and some breeders, were shown by Mr. Lightbody; for these there was no competition. The prize for the best three calceolarias was gained by Mr. Russell, jun., Arnotdale; and for the best seedling calceolaria by Mr. Thomas Hardie, Hill of Kinnauld. The prize for the best 12 pansies was gained by Mr. James Russell, jun., who also gained the prize for the best seedling pansy of this year.

#### TULIP SHOW.

Held at Mr. S. Plant's, Commercial Buildings, Stoke-on-Trent, June 5.

Premier, T. Hollins, Walworth.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. T. Hollins, Rufus; 2, 3. R. Heath, Charles X. and Magnum Bonum; 4. T. Hollins, Dutch Catafalque; 5. R. Heath, Wellington; 6. T. Hollins, Trafalgar.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5. T. Hollins, for Albion, Lustre, Surpasse Catafalque, Bishop of Exeter, and Rufus; 6. R. Heath, Polyphemus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. R. Heath, La Belle Narene; 2, 3, 4, 5. T. Hollins, for Duke de Bordeaux, Bienfait, Seedling, and Grand Financier; 6. S. Brunt, Tont.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1. R. Heath, Gad's Magnificent; 2. T. Hollins, Sampson; 3. T. Brunt, Bienfait; 4. T. Hollins, Violet a Font Noir; 5. R. Heath, Siam; 6. S. Plant, La Belle Narene.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. T. Hollins, Lady Crewe; 2. R. Heath, Holden's Rose; 3. T. Hollins, Hero; 4. R. Heath, Dollittle; 5. S. Plant, Lady Middleton; 6. S. Brunt, Walworth.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. S. Plant, Walworth; 2, 3, 4. T. Hollins, for Ruby, Lord Hill, and Vesta; 5, 6. R. Heath, Murandier and Vulcan.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1, 2, 3. T. Hollins, for Sunbeam, Charbonnier, and Nero.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1. T. Hollins, Seedling; 2. S. Plant, Seedling; 3. S. Brunt, Seedling.

*Rose Breeders*.—1, 2. T. Hollins, Lady Crewe and Duchess of Newcastle.

*Self*.—1. R. Heath, Min d'Or.

### NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, September 15th, the last exhibition of the above society for the present season, was held at the Exchange Rooms, which were filled during the day with a highly fashionable company. The dahlias, considering the very unpropitious season, were extremely fine.

**DAHLIAS**.—Best twenty-four distinct blooms, Mr Edwards, for Antagonist, Nonpareil, Essex Triumph, Princess Radziville, Princess Geham, Marchioness of Cornwallis, Rose, Lord Melbourne, Marquis of Aylesbury, Captain Warner, Optimus, Lady Stopford, Beauty of Sussex, Alice Hawthorn, Bathonia, Lady Leicester, Widnall's Queen, Beeswing, Cleopatra, Brondete, Mrs. Shelley, Pickwick, Queen of Perpetuals, and Rembrandt: 2nd. Rev. R. Sutton, for Cleopatra, Beeswing, Marchioness of Cornwallis, Captain Warner, Sarah, Madame Walmer, Lady St. Maur, Duchess of St. Alban's, Lady Sugden, Essex Triumph, Indispensable, Nonpareil, Perpetual Grand, Countess of Nottingham, Bertha Van Jean, Victory of Sussex, Sir Robert Sale, Sir Robert Stopford, Pickwick, Hero of Sussex, Lady Nelson, Admiral Stopford, Lady Antrobus, and Antagonist: 3rd. Mr. Hopewell, for Nonpareil, Sir H. Pottinger, Aurantia, Mrs. Shelley, Mary the Rose of Kendal, Lady Leicester, Marchioness of Ormonde, Midland Beauty, Cleopatra, General de Cank, Widnall's Queen, Beeswing, Schom Eufurtain, Surprise, Essex Triumph, Vanguard, Standard of Perfection, Bloomsbury, Exemplar, Mrs. Richardson, Fulwood Hero, Widnall's Optimus, Princess Radziville, and Antagonist.—Best twelve blooms (for amateurs only), Mr. Seaman, for Cleopatra, Beeswing, Optimus, Essex Triumph, Sir Edward Antrobus, Dr. Graham, Nonpareil, Lord Melbourne, Marchioness of Cornwallis, Essex Rose Lilac, Captain, and Bertha Van Jean; 2nd. J. H. M. Sutton, Esq., M.P., for Cleopatra, Beeswing, Nonpareil, Essex Triumph, Marchioness of Cornwallis, Bertha Van Jean, Sir Robert Sale, Lady Sale, Madame Walmer, Captain Warner, Countess of Nottingham, and Bandina; 3rd. Mr. G. Seals, for Sir Robert Sale, Beeswing, Admiral Stopford, Nonpareil, Bathonia, Captain Warner, Prince Radziville, Lady Leicester, Dazzle, Optimus, Cleopatra, and Standard of Perfection.—Best amateur's six distinct blooms, Mr. Charles Smith, for Beeswing, Optimus, Essex Triumph, Captain Warner, Standard of Perfection, and Princess de Joinville; 2nd. Mr. J. Nevill, for Cleopatra, Bathonia, Optimus, Dazzle, Perfection, and Sir E. Antrobus.

**AUTUMNAL ROSES**.—Best amateur's six distinct blooms. Mr. S. Moore, for Smith's Yellow Noisette, Baron Provost, Monthly, Rivers, Taglioni, and Aimie Vibert; 2nd. Mr. Hutchinson, for La Reine, Madame Desprez, Multiflora, William Jesse, Josephine Malton, and Adam.—Best collection, Messrs. Pearson.

**FLOWERS**.—Best collection of cut flowers, Mr. Hopewell; 2nd. Mr. Seals; 3rd. Mr. Shilton.—Twelve distinct blooms of asters, Messrs. Pearson.—Twelve distinct blooms of French marigolds, Mr. Edwards; 2nd. Mr. S. R. P. Shilton.

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THE  
MIDLAND FLORIST,  
AND  
SUBURBAN HORTICULTURIST.

---

CONDUCTED BY  
JOHN FREDERICK WOOD, F.H.S.

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VOL. II.  
JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1848.

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“ To study culture, and with artful toil,  
To meliorate and tame the stubborn soil ;  
To give dissimilar, yet fruitful lands,  
The grain, or herb, or plant that each demands ;  
To cherish virtue in an humble state,  
And share the joys your bounty may create ;  
To mark the matchless workings of the power  
That shuts within its seed the future flower ;  
Bids these in form of elegance excel,  
In colour these, and those delight the' smell ;  
Sends nature forth, the daughter of the skies,  
To dance on earth, and charm all human eyes ;  
To teach the canvass innocent deceit,  
Or lay the landscape on the snowy sheet.—  
These, these are arts pursued without a crime,  
That leave no stain upon the wing of time.”  
COWPER.

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1848.





THE  
MIDLAND FLORIST.

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Part II.  
ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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CULTURE OF THE POTATO.

BY A LOVER OF A GOOD POTATO.

THE culture of the potato being attended with both pleasure and profit, has induced me to make an attempt to render a little information on the subject, to your numerous readers.

Having devoted a series of years to experiments on the cultivation of this esculent, and wishing, as far as possible, to render any little service to my fellow man, I will at once proceed to detail my opinion upon the results of those experiments. I am not about to discuss the unfortunate disease of 1845, 6, and 7, further than to state that I believe it to have been caused by atmospheric agency, and consider that we have, after all, a right to be thankful that it fell upon this plant, rather than upon the human race.

VOL. II.

B

I will not attempt to induce cottagers or others to plant artichokes, or sow swede turnips, as a substitute for it; being of opinion that no vegetable can be introduced in this country, that would be so universally appreciated, so applicable to the general tastes of the community at large, or yield a better return for the expense and labour employed, than the potato; neither can any thing be substituted in its place, as a good marketable commodity.

I trust therefore that those who have the means to grow the potato, will endeavour to use the best methods of cultivation, try a few experiments with it, and, for the benefit of the community, report any useful discovery they may make.

The results of my experiments have led me to believe that winter digging and salting or liming the ground, is as important to the following crop of potatoes as the manure which some parties use so lavishly when planting. The too general system of high management when planting, and using the manure at that time, I believe to be one great cause of the degeneracy of the potato. Were the manure to be dug or ploughed in, say a week or two, or a month, before setting, the potatoes would generally be much better. The best way of planting for seed is to plant on the poorer soil, without any manure; and although the crop may be deficient, the following season will repay the loss. This does away with the theory of changing seed every year, from strong to light, and from light to strong soil; and I have found it to answer much better.

I here remark on the great carelessness evidenced with regard to potato plots. How generally are they left as the potatoes are dug out in the autumn, until planting time arrives again, instead of winter digging them, and thus giving the frost and air an opportunity of pulverising the soil, in order that it may be in a more fit and proper state to receive the seed at planting time. Through this neglect, in a dry spring, the soil, if of a retentive or clayey nature, is something

like a piece of liver, with about as much inclination to pulverise easily as a *Mountsorrel stone*. How then can any one with common sense expect the potato to thrive under such circumstances?

I am of opinion too, that one of the proximate causes of the degeneration of the potato, is the system of pitting, hilling, cabling, or whatever the storing away may be termed in different localities, too great quantities together. Instances have come under my notice of forty, fifty, and even a hundred sacks being stored away in one pit, and what result but great deterioration can be expected from such a practice? These heaps often lie fermenting or sweating till spring, when they are found to be one conglomerated mass, with the sprouts of some of the potatoes actually grown through others. These sprouts are, of course, all stript off before the potatoes are brought to market; but then many parties will buy the potatoes for seed, and how, I would ask, can it in reason be expected, with seed which has thus wasted half its strength, that the produce should be other than a deficient crop? This system, in my opinion, is also the cause, or at least the principal cause, of the dry rot, which hundreds of potato growers have suffered from; many having had to plant over again, in some instances as late as the middle or latter end of June, consequently, as might be expected, their crops never arrived at maturity.

I have of late years adopted the practice of storing my potatoes away immediately on taking them up, disapproving of the system of greening them for seed. I select a spot which I know has a dry bottom, and there dig an oblong pit, regulating the size to the quantity I intend to put into it, but making it so that the potatoes shall be beneath the surface of the ground. I then lay over them some straw, and cover all in with five or six inches of soil. Towards Christmas, I take them out, and spread them on a floor, out of the reach of frost, but where there is plenty of light, not allowing one to lie upon another. The

sprouts begin to make their appearance in a few weeks, growing gradually, and consequently strong, by the latter end of March, which I think quite soon enough for general planting of the early sorts; the middle of April for second early, and the latter end of that month for the later varieties. I have known parties to purchase their early seed potatoes in the market, at the beginning of March, without a sprout on them; they have then stowed them in a warm cupboard, to start them, as they termed it, and as soon as a few feeble sprouts have made their appearance, they have removed them to the sad wet earth; never troubling themselves to consider the effect of the sudden check they receive by this barbarous treatment, which is more than their tender frames can bear; many of them perish under it, and others yield a few small potatoes, without ever being able to make their appearance above ground. These parties have then blamed this good, this useful vegetable, when it has been their own carelessness which they should first have condemned.

[To be continued.]

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### POTATO SEED.

At a period when such conflicting accounts reach us from various quarters, respecting the *quality* of the late crops of potatoes, I hope that the annexed article, "on raising potatoes from seed," will prove interesting to your readers.

It appears that the potatoes of this year's growth cannot be depended on for keeping; and recent news from America and Canada, informs us that they have suffered to a great extent from the ravages of the pestilence which, last year, proved so fatal to the crops in Europe.

My attention was excited by the sudden destruction of the crops in this island, when the disease first

appeared (1845); and, like many other individuals, I felt deep interest in pursuing the investigation of the subject.

Having translated the article, which I now send to you for insertion, I determined to make the experiment; accordingly, I procured a small quantity of seed, and following the directions for sowing, planting, &c.—(it was with no small anxiety that I watched the progress of my little crop)—I am happy to say, that the produce has far exceeded my most sanguine hopes. It will not be necessary to enter into a long explanation, in order to combat the fallacious idea, which generally prevails, viz. *that the seed will only produce a crop of potatoes in the third year*. My experiment has successfully proved the error of this idea; the number of potatoes under *each plant* amounting to thirty on the average; many of the potatoes being of the size of a large hen's egg; and in regard to quality, far, very far, superior to any potato produced by the usual mode of cultivation.

I have sent specimens of my "*potatoes grown from seed*" to several editors of newspapers in the neighbouring counties; and those persons, who have tried them, pronounce the quality to be *most excellent*.

The directions for sowing, &c. are so very simple, and the expense so trifling, that I should imagine no one, feeling interested in the subject, would be deterred from making the experiment; and I am convinced, that after a single trial, no one would return to the old system, as the trouble attending the sowing is amply repaid by the abundant produce.

I need not add, that I carefully *collected* and *preserved* all the seed-apples (this year) of my last crops, for the purpose of sowing.

There is one advantage, which I ought to point out, viz. that, by *raising crops from seed*, we shall obtain *new sorts of potatoes, free from disease*; because, only *those healthy potatoes which arrive at maturity can bear seed-apples*.

I regret to say, that during my peregrinations this

summer, I found (comparatively) a very small proportion of the crops bearing the seed-apple, affording a *strong proof* that the potato has been undergoing a change; for, although we have not had the disease to any great extent, still, we must acknowledge that the *quality* of the crop is far from satisfactory. I hope, however, that the subject of "*growing from seed*" may excite the attention of more competent persons than myself, which is what I have in view in thus addressing you.

G. F. CROSSTHWAITE.

*Ryde, Isle of Wight, Nov. 16, 1847.*

**RAISING POTATOES FROM SEED.**—(*Translated from the Hamburg Correspondent.*)—During more than twenty years I have been accustomed to raise potatoes from seed. The disease of the previous year (1845) caused me to reflect more seriously upon the subject, and to extend my operations in this line. My crop of the present year turned out so productive, that no crop raised from planting can have equalled it. Probably, if I had not had my crop gathered in the presence of credible witnesses, my statements might have been considered as an exaggeration, when I inform the public that I have actually had plants which have yielded upwards of one hundred potatoes, some of the size of a hen's egg, many as large as walnuts, and all the others sufficiently large for transplanting. I have divided my manner of proceeding into two parts:—1st. The manner of obtaining the seed. 2nd. The manner of treating the sowing and planting. The seed-apples must be carefully collected, when the potatoes are dry, because, those apples which fall off of their own accord, produce the best seeds. The apples are then suffered to remain till they begin to rot. Then they must be pressed, and again allowed to remain in their jelly or slime, until the latter, by decomposition, be changed into water. And now the seeds, as in the case of cucumber seeds, may be washed out clear (but previous to this, not a drop of water must be added). 2. From the middle to the end of March (according to the favourable state of the weather), a bed is to be prepared in the following manner:—Let a space be levelled, about twelve feet long, and four feet broad (sufficient plants can be reared upon this space to plant out eighty square rods), put horse-dung upon it to the depth of nine inches, then cover this dung with about six or eight inches of mould, previously run through a sieve. The space is to be enclosed by a common frame, with suitable glazed covering. After the mould has thus been laid

over the dung, make it smooth and even, and then draw cross-furrows (of about half an inch in depth) with a fine rake, and strew the seed therein. After which, with the back of the rake, again smooth the small furrows, but without raking in the seeds again. The earth or mould is to be watered by means of a very small water-pot, and great care must be taken to keep the bed (mould) always of equal moisture. The slides may only be moved to admit air, when the plants shall have made their appearance (which occurs after the space of ten or twelve days). Care must also be taken not to let the plants be choked by weeds. After the plants have attained a length of six inches, they are then to be planted out at the same distance that potatoes are usually planted. The plants must be put into the ground at such a depth that two-thirds of the plant be covered. They are then watered a little. The future treatment of the plant may now be conducted exactly in the manner of potatoes which have been planted out. If this process be strictly attended to, the first year's crop will yield potatoes of the size of a hen's egg, and a much richer harvest may be expected than any crop from cuttings could yield.—JOHN JAN. PETERS, *Gurtrow*.

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## EASY METHOD OF ASCERTAINING

THE MOST LIKELY

### SEEDS TO PRODUCE DOUBLE-FLOWERING STOCKS.

THERE are few plants more generally cultivated than the double stock gilliflower. Time out of mind, the Old Brompton, or Queen, has been the pride of the cottager's garden; whilst the Ten-week, with its varieties of German and Prussian, combining every hue from pure white to deep crimson, now lend their effectual aid in the decoration, combining variety and fragrance in an extraordinary degree.

Raising double flowers has always been considered a matter of chance; but should the following hint by M. Louis Mullott, of Elbeuf, be acted upon, and found correct (and we have no occasion to doubt it), it will confer a boon on the small cultivator, who has neither the inclination nor the space to grow single flowers.

We give the following translation of this discovery from *Le Revue Horticole*, a French work, similar in its character and objects to the *Midland Florist* :—

M. Mullot commences by observing, that for a long period, there has been great diversity of opinion as to the best method of procuring double stock gilliflowers; and that formerly, various preparatory means were pointed out, more or less absurd, from which no satisfactory results either were or could be obtained.

"This, then," he says, "is a very easy way, not of *making* the stocks bear double flowers, but to know those seeds which would be most likely to produce plants accomplishing so desirable a result. Thus having the opportunity of sowing only those seeds which have this tendency.

"Having tried this plan," he further adds, "I communicate it with the greatest confidence, not only with the persuasion that it is a new idea to many florists, but that it will be found useful."

The selection of these seeds, consists in choosing *only those pods* which are attached to the flower stem *at the same height*, that is to say, opposite each other, or in whorls of three or four.

The seeds which these *opposing pods* contain, will produce plants bearing double flowers, whilst those placed alternately on the flower stem, one above the other, in the natural way, generally contain those which will bring single flowers.

He concludes by inviting those who grow stocks to make the experiment, so that they may be convinced of its correctness, and to publish the results of their observations.

Many of our readers will, no doubt, exclaim, "*Well, this is singular enough!*" If it cause them to think—to ask "*Why?*" our point will in some measure be gained. But we shall be much happier to have the "*Because,*" from some of them. But at all events, we will give our answer; having asked "*Why is it so?*" We think it arises from an accumulation of sap at that particular point of the flower stem.



If vegetable or floral monstrosities (and all double flowers, whose stamens are turned into petals, are monstrous) arise from an excess of sap, then it appears, from the seed pods being produced on the flower stem in greater number than usual, and out of the common way, that the functions of the plant have been in some way perverted, and this excess of nutriment may be imparted to the embryo seed, and there preserved till brought into action when sown; its result being *a double flower*.

Now we do not mean to say that our theory is right; but we are always glad to receive instruction and information, and thus in some measure get repaid for what we occasionally advance. Perhaps some of our readers conversant with the matter, will give us something short, plain, and instructive, on the laws which govern the production of double flowers.

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### DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF DAHLIAS.

THE following are a few observations by an "Old Grower," on the new dahlias exhibited at four of the principal shows, during 1847. The most extensive exhibition of seedlings was at the Surrey Gardens, on the 15th of September, yet but few come up to the standard required. There are a few very good, and having seen some of them well, upon each occasion, it will be nothing but fair to speak of them accordingly. The particulars of the following varieties were taken down at the time, enumerating both good and bad points:—

*Collison's Shylock*.—Rich deep scarlet, centre well up, good shoulder and outline; the first petals falling back, allowing the blossom to lie deep, with fine symmetrical proportions. Certainly a noble flower.

*Oakley's Gem*.—Pure white, edged and tipped with bright lavender, good petal and outline. A most attractive variety, early, but, like most light dahlias, loses its marking late in the season, consequently the principal part of its beauty is gone; yet one of the very best light dahlias.

*Gaines's Mount Blanc*.—Large, white, loose, and ribby, centre tolerably well up, petal bad; will be coarse, if grown at all strong.

*Barnes's Samuel Girling*.—Dark purple, of good general form; too small, and quills too much to be often shown.

*Golden Fleece*.—Novel golden orange, peculiar variety; from the few blooms shown, this looks a very promising flower, petal and make being good, but cannot speak to its constancy, without seeing more of it.

*Walter Hilston* (Dodd).—Also orange, of a bright shade, a great number of finely cupped petals, flower too flat on the face, good outline.

*Whale's Delight*.—Large light, of good petal and outline; back petals falling, but not one of the centres up.

*Turville's Fire King*.—Scarlet orange; shape, petal, and colour unquestionable, and good size.

*Keynes's Queen of England*.—A flower between Beauty of Sussex and Queen of the Isles in colours; novel, large, somewhat coarse, deep, centre a little green; very desirable when in condition.

*Attraction*.—Shaded crimson, novel, and fine petal; good shape, but cross-eyed, and very uncertain in the centre.

*Pope's Nell Gwynne*.—Pale primrose, tinged with rose; very constant, but loose and low centre, if grown strong.

*Prockter's Jane*.—Large coarse blush; looks constant, but too coarse.

London, Dec. 1, 1847.

## TO PREVENT BROCOLI, ETC. FROM CLUBBING.

THIS evil occurs generally on soils that have been a long time under cultivation, and is caused by the larvæ of an insect. And as there is no remedy when the disease exists, the object should be to prevent its occurring, as "prevention is better than cure." Whilst holding a situation in Staffordshire, I was much annoyed by this evil; and I observed that the plants were generally attacked while in the seed bed. Knowing the aversion of insects to soot, it occurred to me that its application would prove an effectual preventive of this destructive evil.

Accordingly, at the time of sowing the seed, I strewed on the beds a good dressing of fresh soot,

and raked both in together. At the time of drawing the plants, I found the roots clean and healthy, being quite free from any appearance of clubbing; and having a greater abundance of small fibres than in cases where no soot was applied, which was certainly a great advantage. I also left some beds without soot, to enable me to observe the difference; and the greater part of the plants on these beds had commenced clubbing when drawn therefrom, and the roots were few and straggling.

A good dressing of soot should be applied to the ground on which brocoli is to be planted out to remain, at the time of digging; and a portion strewed over the surface, after planting out, from which the effluvia will continue to escape for several weeks. The effluvia of soot is particularly offensive to the olfactory nerves of insects, and it is, no doubt, in a great measure owing to this circumstance that the insect is deterred from descending and depositing its eggs at the roots of the plants.

HENRY WOOD.

*Colney House Gardens, St. Albans, Dec. 3, 1847.*

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## POTATOES.

A NEIGHBOUR of mine, in March last, planted some potato crabs, whole, in drills. When the plants appeared, he divided and planted them out, taking all due pains, in shading and watering, as required. Some of the largest of his seedlings are as big as a large walnut, so that next season, it may be hoped he will be enabled to test their quality.

The process is so simple, that I hope others will follow the example. It is true that seedlings in general are, equally with the old varieties, subject to the rot; but all these are not alike susceptible. The Regents are generally the least affected.

The best potato I am acquainted with (Hague's Seedling, a kidney) was raised by a worthy shoemaker,

in this neighbourhood, who is fond of horticulture, in which he excels. I am fond of florists' flowers, but would rather raise such a potato than the best rose, carnation, or auricula that ever stood upon a stage.

Soot appears to have some effect in checking the disease. Three rows, dressed with soot, although in the wettest part of a field, were nearly free, and their skins very fine, whilst all the rest of the crop was more or less affected.

The American receipt (fat and potash) seems to have done no good. In one instance, where train oil had been substituted for fat, the potatoes all rotted in the ground, never vegetating.

I find no benefit from an exchange of seed with my neighbours; but when I get potatoes grown on a limestone soil, my own being a turfy loam, on a clay subsoil, the advantage is considerable.

I know a person who has grown potatoes, without change of seed, many years. His crops are excellent, but he never grows two years together on the same ground.

AN AMATEUR.

*Yorkshire.*

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A correspondent, who signs himself I. W. clears his garden of earwigs, by simply tying his carnation sticks in bundles of ten or twelve, and placing them against his garden hedge, at regular intervals. These bundles are examined every morning, and the earwigs which are found to resort to them, are destroyed.

M. Hardy, director of the Luxembourg Gardens, near Paris, delivers two lectures every week (free to the public, on pruning, grafting, planting, and every subject connected with fruit trees. He generally finishes the course about the latter end of April.—*[This would be a good plan, in our large provincial manufacturing towns, where small gardens and allotments are numerous.]*

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**KING EDWARD'S PEAR.**—This is a fine and large pear, tolerably productive as a standard, but does better root-pruned "*en pyramide*." Its flesh is melting, and it may be termed in season about October.

**APPLE.—NONPAREIL (PITMASTON RUSSET).**—This new variety we have fruited, and can speak of its merits with approbation. It is much larger than the old variety, and appears to be an early bearer; the fruit is green, and, as its name imports, *much russeted*. Its period of perfection may be quoted as the latter end of February and March, a season when fine table fruit is much in request. Though we have a pleasing remembrance of the excellence of the Old Nonpareil, yet, when the skin is slightly shrivelled, and at the period above-named, we are inclined to yield the palm of excellence to this rich and juicy fruit.

**BLEEKER'S SCARLET PLUM.**—This is stated by a competent authority (Mr. Rivers) to be very hardy and an immense bearer; qualities which will in some measure counterbalance the flavour not being *quite first-rate*.

**WALNUT.—JUGLANS PRÆPARTURIENS.** (*The Dwarf Prolific*.)—We are not aware that this variety has yet fruited in this country. We received it from the Continent, some years ago, as the "*Noyer fertile*;" and it is described as having been seen by Mr. Rivers, in Paris, only two feet high, and at that time full of fruit.

**GRAPES.**—In consequence of the two last seasons being peculiarly favourable for the ripening of the fruit of the vine, on the open wall, perhaps the names of a few of the hardiest and best adapted sorts for this purpose, may not prove unacceptable to our readers:—

*Muscadine (Royal)*.—This is a white grape of excellent quality, and when trained low, will, in anything like a favourable season, ripen its fruit on the open wall.

*Muscat de Fontainbleau*.—As a new grape in this part of the country, adapted for outdoor culture, appears likely to succeed. It is of a delicate light purple, berries rather inclined to oval, a great bearer, and of excellent flavour.

*Burgundy*.—A black grape, known also as “The Miller,” from the hoariness of the foliage. It is hardy, a good bearer, and distinct.

## SHRUBS.

WE promised in our November number, that we would notice a few lilacs. The common varieties are well known to every one; the newer sorts are,

*Prince Notger*.—Flowers of a pale silvery blue.

*Josikæ*.—This is a singular and well marked variety; the leaves are linear and deeply veined, the flowers dark purple, borne in whorls, forming upright spikes.

*Charles X.*—Bears large and massive spikes of flowers, a fine and showy sort.

*Saugeana or New Red*.—This is more slender in its habit than the preceding; similar in character to the Siberian, except that its flowers more nearly approximate red than purple. Very pretty.

*Emodi*.—This has very stout wood, with large lanciolate leaves, perfectly distinct from all other sorts, bearing large panicles of privet-like flowers. Very interesting.

To these may be added the following, which, though we possess plants of them, we have not yet seen flower; therefore we reserve the description of the blooms till another period:—*Valetteana*, *Noissettiana*, *Virginalis*, *Double White*, *Gold-striped-leaved*, and *Silver-striped*. The two last have handsome mottled foliage.

## NEW AND SPLENDID ROSES.

**HYBRID PERPETUALS** are now becoming great favourites; not only because they are highly fragrant, but also from the circumstance of their continuing to produce flowers the entire summer and autumn. In fact, we have now, whilst we are writing (Dec. 1st), many of these fine roses in blossom; amongst which we may enumerate Dr. Marx, Madame Laffay, Rivers, Julie Dupont, &c. Of new varieties, which will be an acquisition to most collections, we may mention the following, and when the price comes within the limits of our readers' pockets, they will thank us for directing their attention to them:—

*Geant des Batailles*.—Nearly scarlet, a beautifully formed rose, of good size, throwing its clusters well above the foliage.

*Blanche*.—This is a sort in the right direction, a greater diversity of colour being much wanted amongst this class. It is not a large rose, but the flowers are white, with a yellowish centre, and will be sought after for its novelty.

*Sidonie*.—A very beautifully formed rose, of first-rate character, its colour deep pink, of a peculiarly striking shade; a very attractive sort.

## FRENCH ROSES, WITH STRIPED OR MOTTLED FLOWERS.

*Tricolor de Flandres*.—Noticed as a fine sort, in vol. 1.

*Perle des Panachées*.—Very singular and beautiful; striped with purple and red, on a white ground.

*Aramis*.—Finely formed; the flower white, striped with deep pink.

**ISLE DE BOURBON ROSES**.—These are a most interesting class, generally speaking, with thick, well-shaped petals, varying in colour, from white through the various shades of pink, and light crimson, to deep purple. Amongst those which have peculiarly taken our fancy, we may mention,

*Comte de Rambuteau*.—This is most excellent in shape, blooms through the summer to a late period in autumn, opens or expands its flowers well, and is altogether a most beautiful sort; its colour is crimson, with a lighter shade on the margins of the petals.

*Oscar Leclerc*.—Large and finely formed; the colour is a most brilliant crimson scarlet; new and first-rate.

*Souchet*.—A very splendid sort, which only requires to be seen to be *desired*. The form is good, petals thick and velvety, colour deep crimson, shaded with purple.

**TEA-SCENTED CHINESE ROSES.**—In this class, of which the old Rose *odorata* may be considered the type, one of the newest, and at the same time most attractive yellows, is,

*Vicomtesse de Cazer*.—Deeper in tint than any other; a great acquisition.—To this may be added

*Madame Bravy*.—Very large, and a most beautiful cream-coloured rose.



## GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**DURING** the past autumn, we have had the pleasure of seeing some beautiful chrysanthemums; they were of the newest and best kinds, well grown, and truly fine. We copy from our note-book a few of the best; several we grow ourselves, but all are worthy of a place in any collection.

*Temple of Solomon*.—A splendid yellow. With us it has bloomed very freely. The flowers are large and double.

*Hecuba*.—This is a better formed flower than the preceding; the colour is singular, but we thought it pretty; it is a light bronze.

*Anne* (Salter's).—This fine variety was pointed out to us as one of the best raised by Mr. Salter, of Versailles. We consider it very finely formed. Its flowers, which are deep sulphur, were produced in great profusion.

*Striatum*.—We are not partial to this variety, though we were at the trouble of bringing a plant from the Continent. True, it is striped, which, with some, would be a sufficient recommendation. Its colour is white, ribboned with reddish purple. We mention it for its novelty.

*Vulcan*.—A splendid crimson. This formed a beautiful contrast with the whites, yellows, and other light colours around it.

*Princess Marie*.—This we bloomed well; it is a delicate pink, its form is good, and it flowers remarkably fine.

As a good white, we have not seen a better than *Lucidum*. Adding this to the above-named, (excluding *Striatum*), would give the small grower six fine sorts to begin with; which would, either against a wall or in pots, afford him a rich autumnal treat.



## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## HEAVIEST GOOSEBERRIES OF 1847.

RED.—*London*: 27dwt. 21gr. grown by Mr. J. Harrison, Maghull.

YELLOW.—*Catherina*: 25dwt. do. do.

GREEN.—*Thumper*: 21dwt. 13gr. grown by Mr. G. Crawford, Northwich.

WHITE.—*Freedom*: 23dwt. 2gr. grown by Mr. Thomas Bell, Davenham.

Foley proves itself a good white. For whilst Eagle has been weighed in 175 times, and reached 20dwt. 10grs.; and Freedom 154 times, and the heaviest being quoted above; Foley is registered as having been weighed in only 7 times, yet its weight reached 20dwt. 6gr.

## TULIPS.

*Elizabeth* (Cotterell's), feathered bizarre, we should say *is better* than Surpass Optimus.

No. 10, we broke extra fine, in '45, but unfortunately lost the bulb. Our name, *Anastasia*, is attached to the breeder.

*Lord Lilford* is as good as a fine Victory.

*Mary Lamb* (Zuill's).—Most beautiful as a bed flower, being exquisite in purity and colour (rose). *For exhibition*, it is too narrow in the cup, and inclines to quarter.

*Catherine* (Gibbons's).—A very splendid flamed rose, colour extremely rich, the cup remarkable for its purity. This flower, when in fine strain, is a gem of the first water.

*Queen Ann* (Dixon's).—This is a Seedling, raised from Count de Vergennes; the cup very superior to the parent, and equal to it in purity, splendour, and depth of feathering.

*Geraldine* (Dixon's).—From the same pod of seed as the above, but much taller. It breaks finely feathered, as well as in a flamed state; in either case, brilliant and pure.

*Polyphemia* (Soorn's).—Feathered rose, prettily marked, but too long in the cup; the petals are deficient in texture.

*Magnificent* (Headley's).—A noble flamed rose, distinct, pure, and beautiful.

## MR. BARNES, OF BICTON, ON GROWING PEAS.

I ALWAYS take care to have all ground trenched well in winter for peas, and well manured, except for the first crop, which I find comes in quicker by being sown on the ground whilst it is rather poor. Stopping them just as they begin to come into bloom, causes them to set altogether, and quickly. I take care to have the second crop to follow immediately.

I have grown almost every sort of pea that I ever heard of up to the present time; and I find that for the first crop there is no sort better than the Warwick, which I sow at the bottom of sloping banks, the first week in December; and by so doing, they are just ready to come through the ground about Christmas, at the time frost generally sets in. If they make their appearance above ground, and the frost does come, I take care to cover them with dry dusty soil of any kind, which I always have in readiness; it keeps them healthy, and free from canker and shanking off.

For succession, I sow the Frame pea, and a few Charlton; and for general summer crop, the Blue Scimeter, New Green Marrow (which is a fine pea), and Knight's Tall Marrow (the best flavoured and most useful of all peas). All the last-mentioned sorts cannot have the ground too well trenched, manured, and prepared, particularly Knight's Tall Marrow, which will not do on poor ground. I have had them sixteen feet high, kept up with poles and ropes.

Sow or plant the seed three inches apart. They always grow up very weak, and continue so for some time; but as the season advances they gain strength wonderfully, and branch out, if stopped when two feet high. If you take care to stop them again, when about four or five feet high, and once or twice afterwards, according to their strength, you will cause them to be from three to four feet in thickness in the row. If they show bloom before I am likely to want them, I pick all off for a time. I reckon on them to

serve the table every day, all through the driest and hottest part of the summer, from July to September; and I have had most wonderful crops from them, when treated in the above manner. I have never heard a single person say but that they were the best flavoured of all peas. It is of no use to think of having a fine lasting crop of peas, if there is not a thoroughly good preparation for them. If a good preparation be made for them, and the ground fresh, that pest, the mildew, will not trouble much; for it is nothing but drought and poverty that causes the mildew in late crops.

*Gardener's Magazine.*

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## ASPARAGUS.

MR. ERRINGTON'S plan of cultivating this excellent vegetable, we extract from the journal of the Horticultural Society. Our readers will many of them be astonished to find that he plants his asparagus when nearly a foot high, &c. but we give it below:—He says, "Most of our experienced kitchen gardeners have a course of culture founded on practice, and generally adapted to the locality where the gardens are situated. I, for one, have my rotation of crops; and one principle I steadily pursue, in the cultivation of asparagus, is to plant a new bed, or beds, yearly. I grow all my celery on what is termed the Scotch bed system; and have long availed myself of the superior depth and enrichment of a plot of ground thus handled, to follow with asparagus. My earliest celery bed, then, six feet in width, receives extra preparation to this end. This preparation consists in trenching thirty inches deep, in burying much vegetable matter in the bottom of the trench, and in blending plenty of old manure near the surface. The asparagus is planted in May, when nearly a foot high; it is manured over each November, and in the

third spring, cutting commences. I plant only two rows in a bed, twenty-seven inches apart, the plants about ten inches distant in the row. One of the main features in my plan, to which I would direct special attention, is the annual digging in of much raw vegetable matter, with a trifling amount of manure in the trenches or alleys. I have found by long experience that the asparagus has the power of making a series of annual roots laterally, provided encouragement be afforded to their development; and the assurance of this fact has formed the basis of my mode of alley cultivation. I apply salt also most liberally. My beds were salted about three times during the growing season, and at least three times during the next season; my maxim being little and often. Beds intended to wear for several years should rest free from cutting every third or fourth year; and if giant asparagus is desired for the next year, the plants should be excited to reach at least seven feet in height in the present season. Although we do not produce such enormous asparagus as some who make size alone a point, yet I may, I think, venture to say that we produce as much of truly good quality from a given quantity of land, as any garden in the kingdom."

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### ON GROWING AND FORCING SEA-KALE.

SEA-KALE is a native of the southern shores of Britain, and is also found plentifully on the sandy shores round the bay of Dublin, where it was first used for culinary purposes. There are several methods by which it can be propagated, but that by seed is the most approved. The seed may be sown from the middle of march to the end of April, upon any soil previously well manured for cropping, either in drills or broadcast, in beds of four feet wide, covered to the depth of two inches of earth, from out of the alleys. They must be carefully thinned, leaving them at the

final thinning from three to four inches apart. During the summer little else will be required, excepting hoeing and keeping them perfectly clean. When the leaves are cleaned off in winter, a little earth should be thrown over them. The ground, for the permanent ridging of it out, must now be made, regulated according to the demand. For that purpose, soil about two feet deep, trenched and manured, should be chosen, and a good coating of consumed dung may be forked in, previous to marking the four-foot beds. In the centre of each bed draw a line, and here plant the strongest plants, two feet apart. Have the crown a little below the surface, to allow for their future rising, as they are inclined to do. With proper care, they will produce shoots at ten years old equal to those when at four. There will be some plants left over, which can be planted in a bed, six inches apart, to be ready when required. Should the weather be dry at the time of planting, a good watering should be given, and observe to cut down all flower-shoots, whenever they appear.

The following method of forcing will be found successful:—When the number of crowns are determined upon, then make all clean about them, and place the sea-kale pot over them, filling it with peat: if pots are not convenient, cover by means of a ridge, with peat, about a foot in depth. The peat can be done without, but it is better with, as being preventive of injury from the heat. Coal ashes are a very objectionable material for using here as covering. A layer of fermenting materials, composed of fresh stable manure, with one-third of decayed leaves, say eighteen inches deep, but this must be regulated according to the state of the weather. Care is necessary to see that too strong a heat does not take place, which can be known by having sticks thrust into the material. If the temperature is from fifty to sixty degrees it will be quite sufficient. Temporary coverings of dry litter or fern will be found necessary to counteract sudden variations of the temperature. In about four

weeks, the sprouts will be from six to eight inches long; it is time to cut, and observe to cut with part of the crown adhering. The coverings are replaced as before, and the heat may be again renewed by adding a little fresh dung, when the beds may be made to last for four weeks or so from the time of first cutting. They must be gradually uncovered when passed, as the severe weather might injure the crowns. When dressed, fork in two or three inches of good manure, which will be found to sustain the plants in a vigorous state throughout the season, and they will be well prepared to be again forced.

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## ON THE CULTIVATION OF RHUBARB.

BY MR. CAMPBELL.

RHUBARB can be propagated from seeds and offsets; that from seeds is the better way, but the other is useful for enlarging the stock and for forcing. Sow in April, in a four feet bed, in a light rich soil; as soon as the plants are fairly up, thin to ten inches apart, and keep them clear throughout. In autumn, plantations can be made on deep-trenched rich ground, and previous to planting, fork in a good coating of decayed manure. Plant in rows from three to four feet apart; the same may be said of offsets, observing to dung regularly in autumn, and it may continue for many years in a vigorous state. Forcing in hot beds or pits, where a gentle heat can be maintained, will suit. When in the open ground, larger pots than for sea-kale are required. Use fermenting material the same, and keep a temperature of between fifty and sixty degrees. It can also be forced in pots, and they can be more conveniently lifted to and from any of the houses which may be at work, as the mushroom-house, vinery &c. Select sorts are the Elford, Tobolsk, Giant, and Victoria, which are excellent either for forcing or the open ground.

## PROPAGATION OF THE ROSE BY CUTTINGS.

CUTTINGS of SUMMER ROSES may be raised with facility by adopting the following method. Some time about the latter end of July, make up a slight hotbed, and place thereon a one-light box, with the front of the frame facing the north; fill up the box to within one foot of the top, tread it down solid, then put six inches of light sandy soil on the top of the dung, making it solid by beating the surface with a soil beater, or the back of a spade. It will be ready in the course of ten days or a fortnight for the reception of the cuttings. Care must be taken to secure shoots that are well ripened; those short side-shoots which have the terminal bud at the end well formed, and which are generally very plentiful in the month of August, are the best for the operation. If the base, or heel of the shoot can be secured, so much the better; if not, six inches from the point of the shoot will do. As soon as the cuttings are made, they must be pricked out in the bed. When all is finished, give a good sprinkling with water, and shut close up. This method is applicable to all the classes of summer roses; even moss and Provence roses will strike root, if treated as above, only a little more patience is requisite, as they are longer in forming roots. Plants raised in this manner will, if well treated, form very pretty bushes, and flower abundantly the second season.

Those who cannot command a hotbed and frame, may adopt the following mode:—In the beginning of September, take shoots ten inches in length, having a heel at the lower end; smoothen the heel with a sharp knife, and remove all the leaves, with the exception of those attached to the three uppermost buds; then make a trench across a north border, in which lay the cuttings at full length, only leaving the three buds above the surface of the soil. These must remain in this situation till the following autumn, when they will be fit for planting out.

AUTUMNAL ROSES may be successfully propagated by cuttings during the spring, summer, and autumn months. To procure cuttings in spring, it will be necessary, in the month of March, to have recourse to those plants which have been forced in January; all those shoots which have borne flowers, will be eligible for this purpose. The cuttings may be either inserted simply in small pots, or three or four round the edge of a larger sized pot. Plunge them in a gentle hotbed, and when well rooted and "*hardened off*" for a few weeks, pot them off, and replace them in a cold frame, where there is a little heat, till they get well established in the pots. During summer, they may be struck with facility, by inserting the cuttings in a north border; and in autumn, by inserting the cuttings in a warm situation, and covering them with a hand-glass. These will root slowly, but surely. All the autumnal roses will take root readily, if the above methods be followed, with the exception of damask perpetuals, which are rather tardy in taking root.

*Gardener's Journal.*

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## INSECTS AND DISEASES OF HOUSE PLANTS.

PLANTS in rooms, especially geraniums and roses, are very liable to be attacked by aphides, or green fly. These may be easily removed by tobacco smoke, or tobacco water; and where the smell is not offensive, smoke blown from a common tobacco pipe is as effectual as any other. Camphorated water may be used by those who dislike the smell of tobacco. Mildew occasionally, though rarely, attacks house plants. It appears like a white powder, and is supposed to consist of minute fungi; but these fungi are not the original disease, but its consequences, and their appearance shows that the plant has been in impure air, or otherwise improperly treated. Sulphur of camphor will effectually remove this mildew; and



a scaly insect of the coccus tribe, which appears occasionally on oranges, camellias, and similar plants, may be removed by a sponge and water. Many persons have a dislike to plants in houses, as being unhealthy; and as this dislike is in a great measure groundless, we may notice it. Dr. Priestly was the first to show that the leaves of plants absorb carbonic acid gas by their upper surfaces, and give out oxygen by their under surfaces, thereby tending to purify the air, in as far as animal life is concerned; because carbonic acid gas is pernicious to animals, and oxygen is what that life requires. It is in the light, however, that these operations are carried on; for in the dark, plants give out carbon, and this may be one reason why plants grown in the dark have little or no charcoal in their substance. It does not appear, however, that any of the scentless products given out by plants are injurious to human beings; because those who live among accumulated plants are not less healthy than others; though many persons feel dislike and even pain from the odours of particular plants, in a way not easily accounted for. On the Continent in general, and in France and Germany in particular, flowers of all sorts, but particularly the most fragrant, are admitted into the saloons, chambers, and even bed-rooms of people of all classes; and they, rather than complain of any ill effects arising from their presence, complain more of the difficulty of procuring them in sufficient abundance. The flowers most in demand for the chambers of the French and Germans, are oranges, jasmine, carnations, honeysuckle, mignonette, olive, rocket, rose, violet, wallflower, rosemary, stock, lavender, savory, oleander, hyacinth, lilac, syringa, heliotrope, narcissus, &c., all sweet-smelling flowers: and these they indulge in to a very considerable extent. We may safely conclude then, that plants admitted into rooms to the extent that they are, can produce no effect injurious to the health of persons in general; but on the contrary, will afford amusement to the mind and exercise to the body,

both of which are so necessary towards the enjoyment of good health. The mind will be agreeably exercised in contemplating the beauty of the flowers; but much more so still, if their respective parts, natures, and structures, in a botanical or physiological point of view, be at the same time attended to. An agreeable and rational exercise will be provided for the body, if the proprietor, if of the softer sex, take the entire management of her own little window garden into her own hands.

LOUISA JOHNSON.



### CULTURE OF ROSES.

NOTHING delights in rich soil more than this handsome flower: it should always be planted in a composition of stiff loam, rotten dung, or leaf mould. Where roses have grown strong after three or four years' standing they may be taken up, the ground well renewed, the roots pruned, as well as their shoots very much thinned, and then planted in the same situation; they will then produce as fine blooms as when first transplanted from the nursery. This should always be done in the early part of November. Roses bloom well the first year after being transplanted, if carefully attended to. They should, when transplanted, have a strong stake attached to each standard, to preserve them from the wind moving them, and then well mulched round. If dry weather the ensuing spring and summer, they should be occasionally watered with liquid manure. In pruning roses much requires to be observed. With the exception of Teas and Chinas, December and January are considered the best months for pruning; many sorts, such as the Hybrid Chinas, Hybrid Bourbons, with some of the strongest growing Noisettes and Bourbons, require very little pruning; about every third year they should be pruned in close, so as to make them produce new wood, and to

prevent the plants getting too old and ugly in appearance. The Persian Yellow requires merely to have just the top of the shoots taken off, it being found to flower only on the last year's wood. Another excellent plan for Standard Hybrid Chinas, many of the Pillar Roses, and Standard Climbers, is to prune them in pretty close just after they have done flowering. They will then produce new shoots the same summer, and flower abundantly the next season. February and March are considered the best months for pruning Teas and Chinas. In protecting roses, the past severe winter has fully proved the necessity for protecting all the Tea kinds, with many of the Chinas, such as *Sulphurea superba*, *Infidélité de Lisette*, *Alexina*, &c. Very few young plants have survived, except where protected. Dry litter or short dung should be laid round the plant, while branches of fir or fern should be stuck round, to break the severity of the frost.

*Hertford.*

E. P. FRANCIS.

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## ON PLANTING RHODODENDRONS, ETC.

BY MR. WATERER.

ALL (or with but few exceptions) plants generally known as Americans will flourish in a much less portion of peat earth, than is generally allotted to them, and which prevents this most beautiful family of plants being more generally introduced, as on most estates a compost may be prepared at a moderate expense to answer the purpose. Of course when bog can be easily obtained, compost is out of the question; but even then, I find many will carry a better foliage than when planted in all the former. Add to the bog an equal quantity of loam, the same of decomposed vegetable matter, such as leaf mould, rotten wood, or turf, with one-eighth part of good sharp sand; this would carry the whole of the hardy rhododendrons,

kalmias, azaleas, &c. &c.; whilst the more common, such as *R. ponticum*, with two or three of its varieties, *R. maximum*, *Azalea pontica*, *autumnalis*, and some others, will grow in almost any loamy soil, with only a small portion of the above composition round the roots of each, to start them, if the ground is only first properly prepared; which consists in its being well trenched, keeping the surface or swardy part at the top. This is most essential to the well-doing of all plants, in forming a new plantation. One and a half to two feet would be quite a sufficient depth for the mould of clumps in general.

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### THE ONION.

THE following description of the most useful varieties of the onion is extracted from the *Vegetable Cultivator*, an excellent work, by Mr. Rogers, of Southampton:

1. *Deptford*—So called from the large quantity of seed saved in the vicinity of that town. It is a good keeping onion throughout the season, and is much cultivated for the London markets.

2. *Reading*—long celebrated for a superior growth of onions, of a milder cast than either the Deptford or the Strasburg. There are two varieties of this onion—the white and the brown; of the two, the brown will keep the longest. The true Reading has a silvery appearance, and is the sort which should be selected for seed. The size of the bulbs for this purpose is not material, as, from an observation made by the author, just as fine onions were produced from seed saved from the smaller as from the larger bulbs. It is the nature of the soil and method of cultivation which cause the principal difference in respect to the size and quality of onions.

3. *Silverskinned*.—A very excellent sort. This, together with the Reading, are the best and most esteemed for pickling.

4. *White Spanish, Portugal, or Lisbon*.—These are fine onions as long as they last, which is only in the early part of winter. To have these sorts true, seed should be imported every second year at least, as they deteriorate after three or four years' cultivation in this country.

5. *Tripoli*.—A very fine onion, growing to a large size, and of a more oval or pyramidical form than any other variety. It is excellent for a late crop, but does not keep long after it is taken up. If this onion is wished to be kept from decreasing in size and quality, fresh seed must be imported every season.

6. *James's Long-keeping*. } These are two valuable

7. *True Globe*. } sorts; that of James's in particular; they both keep well, and are mild and well-flavoured. The author well recollects the first introduction of James's onion. James was an extensive market gardener, in Surrey, where he amassed a large fortune. He was greatly respected, and, in the decline of life, was nominated high sheriff of the above county.

8. *Strasburg*. } Principally valued for their long-

9. *Blood-red*. } keeping, which, in most seasons, continues till the autumn sowing, for the following spring transplanting, comes into use. They are very hardy, but of strong flavour.

10. *Welsh Onion*.—This variety is a native of Siberia, and is of the most hardy nature. It is seldom destroyed in the severest season; but dies down in the early part of winter, and grows again at the commencement of spring. The Welch Onion is a perennial, and all the other cultivated sorts are biennial; it does not bulb, and is principally sown in autumn, for drawing in spring. It would, perhaps, be more generally cultivated were it not for its very strong scent and taste. The stock of this variety will last a good many years for producing seed, which it does freely; but, for general uses, it should be sown every year.

11. *The Potato or Underground Onion*.—So called

from producing underground. It cannot now, perhaps, be correctly ascertained when this variety was introduced into this country, or whence it came. It appears to have been cultivated in Mr. Driver's nursery, near London, in 1796. It produces no seed; consequently it can only be raised from the offsets of the bulb. The first the author saw or heard of was at Lord Rolle's, in Devonshire, above twenty years ago; and the guide justly remarked that the Potato Onion is a very valuable acquisition to our gardens, and its cultivation cannot be too strongly recommended. It is most hardy, productive, and mild in quality, equally so with the Spanish; and possesses this advantage, that the roots are perfectly ripened and fit for use two months before any other sort.

12. *Tree, or Bulb-bearing Onion*.—Originally from Canada, where, the climate being too cold for onions to flower and seed, when they are allowed to throw up flower-stalks, the flower becomes viviparous, and bears bulbs instead of flowers. It is more an object of curiosity than use, though in some part of Wales the cauline bulbs are planted, and produce good ground onions of a considerable size, while the stem supplies a succession of bulbs for next year's planting. It is considered stronger for seasonings than other onions.

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## NEW ROSES.

WE have many readers who prefer the rose to the tulip, in order, therefore, to suit their fancy, we subjoin the following new roses, which were sold out on the Continent, last autumn, and will, no doubt, soon be procurable in English nurseries.

Complaints are made that in the class of Hybrid Perpetuals there has been too much sameness in many of the sorts. We should imagine that *Cæline perpétuelle* will prove an acquisition. The flowers are

of a delicate pink, the centre being almost white. During its period of blooming in the summer, it often produces clusters of from ten to twenty flowers; these are considerably reduced, as a matter of course, in the autumn.

In Tea-scented Chinese Roses, scarlet and dark are much wanted; a variety raised by Vibert, and called *Turgot*, is one of the darkest, being of a reddish purple; the flowers are large and well formed.

In Moss Roses *Parmentier's Comtesse de Noe* will, most likely, be a great favourite, combining, as it does, novelty with beauty. It is of a fine scarlet, changing to deep lilac, as the flowers age. It bears large trusses of blooms, and the moss is of a singular and deep brown.

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## ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE PELARGONIUM.

BY MR. WM. COCK, CHISWICK.

THE following is the method adopted by me, in growing pelargoniums for exhibition. It may be arranged under four separate heads, viz.:—1st. The period of striking, potting, and re-potting. 2nd. The treatment when in the greenhouse. 3rd. The manner of applying heat during the winter season. 4th. The way of preparing the soil, &c.

1st. My usual custom is to strike the cuttings the beginning of June, or sooner, if my plants are sufficiently strong to allow my taking two or three shoots off without injury. As soon as they are rooted, I pot them in sixty-sized pots, and remove them to a shady situation, or place them in a cool frame, shading them constantly when the sun is out, until they have taken fresh roots. They are next transferred to an open situation, and placed on slates or boards. As soon as the plants will bear the sun without flagging, I stop them. In September, I re-pot them into forty-eight-

sized pots, and at that period I commence training them into the form I intend them to have. In December or January, those which are sufficiently strong are shifted into sixteen-sized pots, allowing plenty of potsherds for drainage; the others I do not shift till March. In these pots they remain to flower. About the middle of July or the beginning of August, I cut them down, and place them in a shady situation, to keep the sun from drying the soil too fast. Water is now applied very sparingly. As soon as the plants have thrown out shoots an inch long, the soil is nearly all shaken off, and they are re-potted into the same sized pots. When they have taken root, the superfluous shoots are thinned out; and in this state they remain until they are removed into the greenhouse.

2nd. *Treatment when in the greenhouse.*—The plants I intend growing for exhibition are placed on the stage at least four feet apart; air is liberally supplied; where the situation will allow it, the front sashes should be left open all night, while the weather will permit. In November, the plants are stopped; *a stick is then put to each shoot, to make the plants uniform*, and the leaves are thinned out, to allow the air to pass freely through the plants. In December or January, the strongest plants are again selected, and re-potted into eight-sized pots; additional heat should then be applied, to enable the plants to root quickly. In February, I commence syringing them: this is done early in the afternoon, that the leaves may dry before night. In March, they are again re-potted, into two-sized pots, allowing a larger quantity than before of potsherd, for drainage. Water is now very liberally supplied. When the flowers begin to expand, they are shaded on the outside of the house with cheesecloth, which I consider better than canvass, as it admits more light, and the temperature will not be higher. Air should always be admitted before the sun has much power on the glass. This precaution in a great measure prevents the appearance of the greenfly.



3rd. In applying fire-heat the greatest care is required; for on this, success will in a great measure depend. The system I have pursued for four successive years, is to light the fires at three or four o'clock in the afternoon, sometimes later, as circumstances may dictate. The fires are allowed to go out at eight or nine o'clock, by which time the temperature ought to be forty or fifty degrees Fahrenheit, which is amply sufficient. I again re-light them at three or four o'clock in the morning; by which means the plants are never overheated, as is frequently the case when the fires are continued until a later period in the evening.

4th. *Preparing the soil.*—Having obtained a quantity of loam, with the turf, it is chopped up with a spade and placed in a heap. I then procure a large quantity of fresh stable litter, and shake it up lightly into a heap, in the form of a mushroom-bed. If the weather is hot and dry at the time, it is well watered with strong manure water, and covered over with slates as closely as possible, to keep the ammonia &c. from disengaging. In this state it remains for fifteen or sixteen days; I then put to every barrowful of loam one of dung, covering the heap slightly over at last with loam. In this heap it remains for a month or five weeks; it is then turned over three or four times, in order that the loam and dung may be well mixed together; in twelve months it will be fit for use. To two barrowsful of this compost I add one of leaf mould, and a peck and a half of silver sand.



## PROTECTING FROM FROST

Is an essential part of culture to a lady gardener, particularly in so uncertain a climate as that of England. Not only the blossoms of peaches and nectarines, and those of other early flowering fruit trees, are liable to be injured by the spring frosts, but those

of the tree pæony, and other beautiful shrubs, are frequently destroyed by them; and, unfortunately, many of the modes of protection, by knocking off and bruising the blossoms, are almost as injurious as the frosts they are intended to guard against. Twisting a straw rope round the trunk of the tree, and putting its ends into a bucket of water, is certainly a simple method, and it has been recommended as a very efficacious one. When a mat is used to protect wall trees, it does perhaps least injury to the blossoms when curtain rings are sewed to its upper end, and it is hung by these on holdfasts, or large hooks, driven into the upper part of the wall. To make it more secure, particularly in windy weather, it may be tied on the sides with bast to nails driven into the wall; and a broad moveable wooden coping should rest on the holdfasts, and cover the space between the mat and the wall, to prevent injury from what are called perpendicular frosts. Camellias, and many half-hardy shrubs, may be protected by laying straw or litter round the roots; as the severest frosts seldom penetrate more than a few inches into the ground. Even in the severe winter of 1837-8, the ground was not frozen at the depth of ten inches. Tree pæonies, and other tender shrubs that are in a growing state very early in the spring, may be protected by coverings of basketwork, which are sufficiently large and light to be lifted off during fine days. Hand and bell glasses, sea-kale pots, and wooden frames covered with oiled paper, are all useful for protecting small plants. It is astonishing how very slight a covering will often suffice to protect a plant from frost, if the covering be over the top of the plant, even though the sides be exposed; while, on the contrary, a warm covering in front of the plant will fail to save it, if the top be exposed to the perpendicular frosts. Protecting the roots and collar is a most important point, and few half-hardy trees and shrubs will be seriously injured, if the ground over their roots is covered a few inches deep with straw or dead leaves. Every

lady should have two or three hand-glasses, of different sizes, always at her disposal, even during summer, for the convenience of sheltering newly-transplanted plants, &c.; and for winter use she should have several beehive-like covers, each with a handle for lifting it, formed of plaited rushes or some similar material, which may be easily made by poor women and children in country places, under the direction of a lady; and which will be a charitable mode of employing them.—*Mrs. Loudon's Gardening for Ladies.*

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COLOURS OF THE TULIP.—There is a strange notion prevalent in some parts of the country regarding the colour of a bizarre or yellow ground tulip. The fanciers condemn a red colour for the feather or flower. The sooner this silly prejudice is abandoned the better. The properties to be admired in flowers go strictly to form and texture, because in those qualities there can be no alteration from perfection without being worse; but in colour, which is so much a matter of taste and fancy, there can be no other preference given than that which carries contrast. A black and gold would be more of a contrast than a red and gold, and therefore would be better; but to discard any colour is the height of folly, it is setting bounds to the diversity which is the principal charm of a collection. We have only one remark to make as to societies that entertain so mischievous an exclusion. Their proceedings ought to be excluded from every publication devoted to floriculture, for they would be degrading to the science.—*Gardener's Gaz.*

TRAINING THE GLYCINE SINENSIS, SO AS TO MAKE A PENDULOUS PLANT.—Those of our readers who do not know this beautiful climbing plant, have a treat in store. We are not aware that any stock has yet been discovered on which it will succeed grafted. We tried it some fifteen years ago on the laburnum; two grafts emitted leaves, and appeared to be going on

well, when we very foolishly removed the clays; the consequence was, that the leaves withered, and we concluded that they would not succeed. It is worthy of a more careful trial, and the experiment having slipped our memory till within the past few minutes, we have mentioned it in order that from this hint experiments might be made. What would be more novel or beautiful than to have this fine creeper grafted on stocks, from ten to fifteen feet high, with its beautiful foliage and splendid flowers, borne on long taper shoots, floating in the breeze or hanging down, forming some of the handsomest verdant pillars imaginable? We are, however, trying another plan; we are training a single shoot round a stout larch stake, and it now appears somewhat like the snake which twines round the stick of Esculapius. When it has extended its sinuous course to the top, we shall stop its further progress, and encourage it to make a head, by disbudding all below. Thus, we imagine, we shall be able to attain what we much wish to see, a Weeping *Glycine Sinensis*. If any of our readers have seen these ideas acted upon, we shall be most happy to hear from them.

**CABBAGE SPROUTS.**—Very few people take half the pains they ought with cabbages. When they are cut, no matter how—the stumps are left to bring forth sprouts—no matter when, nor how many. Now the fact is, that when the sprouts begin to grow, they should all be rubbed off but the best—or at most two; instead of which, a multitude of small ones are allowed to grow, not any of which bring good hearts, and all are, for the most part, but a poor apology for greens. When the cabbage is cut, the leaves should be cut off the stem, and as soon as the buds of the stump begin to grow, rub off, or cut all that are not wanted, leaving one of the strongest and best to grow into a head, which it will do in an incredibly short time; equalling, and more frequently excelling the first head itself, in flavour and appearance.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*.

Mr. Rivers gives the following hint, which will be worth mentioning in the *Midland Florist*:—For Bourbon Roses, on their own roots, in stiff soils, he has used, with great success, burnt earth, well saturated with manure water, spread on the surface, two inches deep, and then intimately mixed with the soil, to the depth of one foot.

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## DOMESTIC ECONOMY.



It sometimes happens that the possessor of a well cultivated garden finds himself overstocked with parsnips. If he have neither cow nor pig, we would advise him to see what he can do in the way of wine-making. We recollect an old bachelor uncle of ours, who used to make all his own wine. His palings, walls, and in fact, every available space, were covered with grape vines, and from these he manufactured enough to supply himself and others with several glasses of wine every day, after dinner. It was not like the *vin ordinaire* of the French, which often causes an Englishman to wonder *what on earth it is made from*, but really most excellent wine, and pronounced such by all who had the good fortune to share his hospitality.

It is not often that in the *Midlands*, grapes get to perfection—only in favourable summers; but the root above-named will always yield a most palatable and wholesome drink, with which the artizan may treat his family “*on high days and holidays*,” quite sure that they are drinking the *right thing*, which is *a point worth knowing* now a days, to those who partake largely of *foreign wines*.

PARSNIP WINE is made thus:—Wash the roots well, and cut them in two, lengthways, and to every pound of roots put a quart of water. Boil them over

a slow fire till quite tender, then drain them carefully through a sieve. To each gallon add four pounds of loaf sugar, and half an ounce of crude tartar. When milk-warm, spread a little barm or yeast on a toast, and put in it. The tub or vessel should stand in a warm place for several days. The wine may then be put into a clean barrel, and when the fermentation has subsided, it should be bunged down. The roots should not be bruised while draining, as there is some difficulty in getting the wine clear, if they are.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.

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### JOURNAL OF THE LONDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 2, Part 4.

As this most excellent work is out of the reach of many of our readers, we are sure that an occasional notice will be highly acceptable. A considerable portion of this number is occupied by "A History of the Species of Crocus," by the late Rev. Wm. Herbert, dean of Manchester, where an immense mass of information is collected, relative to this beautiful tribe of plants. There is also a description of two new species of achimenes, by Mr. Geo. Gordon; one of which has been named *A. Skinnerii*, in compliment to its introducer, Mr. Skinner; and the other, *A. pyropæa*, from the ruby colour of its flowers. They are both most welcome additions to this charming family. We extract the following mode of treatment:—

"About the beginning of February, the scaly roots should be separated, and the scales strewed over the surface of a pan or pot filled with a light rich soil, and slightly covered with fine sand (for starting); then placed in a cucumber or melon pit, where there is a strong moist heat; and afterwards, when the plants are about two or three inches in height, removed, by

carefully transplanting them into pans, four inches deep and twelve wide, well drained, and about three parts filled with a mixture of rough peat, half decayed leaves, and a small portion of sand and very rotten dung. Each pan should have from six to eight plants carefully placed in it, at equal distances. When the plants have nearly covered the surface of the pans, fill the remainder of the pans up to the brim, with the same kind of compost as used before; and finally water freely, *but never overhead.*"

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## THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET,

FOR DECEMBER.

THIS established work has undergone much improvement of late, and we bear willing testimony to its general excellency. The part before us is embellished with a coloured figure of that beautiful hardy autumnal plant the *Anemone Japonica*. The editor finds it a valuable plant, grown in pots, for the greenhouse. Amongst new plants noticed in this work, which are likely to interest our readers, is the *Golden Iris* (*Iris aurea*), a hardy herbaceous plant, with flowers of a deep yellow. *Rhododendron Javanicum* (Javanese Rosebay), grown on high mountains in the island of Java. Its habit is fine, and the flowers are of a beautiful orange colour. We should suppose this to be a highly desirable plant, as it will be the means of originating some splendid hybrids. *Tritonea aurea* (*Golden Tritonia*): it does not state whether greenhouse or hardy; nevertheless, we learn it is the most beautiful of the genus, blooming most abundantly, producing flowers somewhat similar to *ixias*, of a bright orange colour.

There is a good article on the rose, containing many valuable hints. Propagation of gloxinias. On wild stocks, for budding upon, to form standard roses, in which we think *The Extensive Propagator* does not shine much. This is followed by two useful articles: one a descriptive list of *chrysanthemums*, the other of perpetual roses; &c. &c.

## MAUND'S BOTANIC GARDEN.

THIS periodical is a most excellent little work, which we have for years looked up to, for information in all that pertains to plants, for the embellishment of the garden or conservatory. The number for December contains coloured figures of *Camellia reticulata*, which we do not admire. *Epimedium colchicum* (The Yellow Barrenwort): the epimediums are singular and pretty dwarf hardy herbaceous plants; particularly *E. macranthon* and *E. violacea*. This is, however, said to be the most showy of the new varieties introduced by Dr. Siebold (with whose name so many fine lilies, clematises, &c. are associated.) *Symphiandra pendula* is a biennial plant: the flowers are bell-shaped. In fact it is a veritable campanula, and nine-tenths of our readers would immediately pronounce it such. We should have preferred the simple designation of *Campanula pendula*. The plant is hardy and pretty. The other figure is *Lupinus ornatus* var *maximus* (Largest Ornamental Lupine), of which the following note is given:—"This large and dark-flowering variety appears to have permanency of character, and is a most desirable and quite hardy plant"

To the above is added a fine woodcut and description of the Winter Nelis Pear. It appears that "it was raised at Mechlin, about the year 1800, by M. Nelis, whose name it bears; and that the London Horticultural Society first introduced it into this country, from the Continent, under different appellations, as La Bonne Malinoise, Bonne de Malines, and Nelis de Hiver; and that its name is now established, and no fear need be entertained of mistakes arising from its former titles." This we are glad of, for if there is any one thing more annoying than another, it is finding, when your trees come into bearing, that though you may have several with different names, yet in reality they are the same.

In addition, there are woodcuts of sixteen new and



rare plants, some of which we have noticed in another place; and though the engravings are diminutive, they appear to be well executed, and give a very good idea to the intending purchaser of what he may expect.

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### THE FLORIST'S JOURNAL.

THE plates in this interesting work are always beautifully executed, witness the *Begonias*, *alba coccinea* and *fuchsioides*, in this (December) number. The letter press is good, and the articles are well written. The following are highly interesting:—The Genus *Begonia*. The Progress of an *Aphelandra cristata*. *Boronia serrulata*. Vegetables and Fruits: Necessity and Advantage of an Authoritative Record of their Characteristics and Merits. The writer, "Romeo," advocates the propriety of the Horticultural Society of London publishing a catalogue of vegetables, &c. in a similar manner to their most excellent Description of Fruits. A Descriptive List of New Plants gives many of the novelties of the day. A Glossary of Terms used in Botanical Descriptions, ought to be committed to memory by all who love plants; it would often prove to them WHY a specific name had been given to a plant. Bottom Heat for Orchids, &c. &c. But what will prove interesting to the majority, is a list of six of each of the most select plants of last season; and this list we shall beg leave to extract for the readers of the *Midland Florist*, referring them to the book itself for information on the other subjects:—

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW STOVE PLANTS.**—*Æschynanthus longiflorus*, *Echites Franciscia*, *Gardenia malleifera*, *Ixora Griffithii*, *Leibigia speciosa*, *Raphistemma pulchellum*.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW GREENHOUSE PLANTS.**—*Cereus Maynardii*, *Correa brilliant*, *Erythrina Bidwilli*, *Epacris Tauntoniensis*, *Rhododendron Javanicum*, *Tropæolum speciosum*.

**SIX NEW HARDY SHRUBS.**—*Azalea squamata*, *Berberis ilicifolia* (?), *Deutzia staminea*, *Forsythia viridissima*, *Spiraea pubescens*, *Viburnum macrocephalum*.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW HARDY AND HALF-HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.**—*Aquilega glandulosa major*, *Campanula nobelis*, *Dianthus Hendersonii*, *Pentstemon Gordonii*, *Tigrida Watsonii*, *Tritonia aurea*.

**SIX OF THE BEST INDIAN AZALEAS.**—*Optima*, *Formosa*, *Murryana*, *Lateritia formosa*, *Gledstanesii superba*, *Exquisita*.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW GERANIUMS.**—*Cruenta*, *Gustavus*, *Beck's Centurion*, *Forget me not*, *Miss Vincent*, *Jenny Lind*. The two last are fancy varieties.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW CALCEOLARIAS.**—*Refulgens*, *Duchess of Buccleugh*, *Holmesii*, *Conrad*, *Jenny Lind*, *Masterpiece*.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW VERBENAS.**—*La Reine*, *Lilac Rival*, *Prometheus*, *Oberon*, *La Volupté*, *Benedict*.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW PICOTEEES.**—*Headley's King John*, H.R. (*King James, we suppose, is meant*); *Headley's Venus*, L.R. (?); *Headley's Ariel*, R.; *Premitt's Bendigo*, L.P.; *Smith's Primo*, H.P.; *Harrison's Miss Johnson*, H.P.

**SIX OF THE BEST NEW CINERARIAS.**—*Competitor*, *Alpha*, *Bijou*, *Jenny Lind*, *Incomparable*, *Victor*.

## REVIEWS.



REMARKS ON THE CULTIVATION OF THE POTATO, DERIVED FROM PRACTICAL OBSERVATION, ETC. By George Turner, Hanthorpe, near Bourne. *Bartlett, 32, Paternoster-row, London*

THE contents of the pamphlet bearing the above title are observations made during a series of years, by one who has evidently paid considerable attention to the subject; and though we are inclined to differ with him on several points, yet we have read his "Remarks" with much interest.

He is evidently a disciple of the "*aphis vastator*" school; as he states, "*that insects are the cause of the rot in potatoes.*" We respect his opinion, but think that it is not yet sufficiently borne out by facts; for we well know that insects are bred in many things after they have become tainted; the parent fly being attracted by incipient decay to deposit its eggs where proper food may be obtained for the larvæ. We, however, quite agree with the author, that raising

seedling potatoes should by all means be encouraged ; and we shall give an extract, detailing the advantage of thin planting. He observes (page 19), " I had two rows of Norway potatoes (about the twenty-second year (?) they were planted), eighty yards long, six feet apart, and eleven inches apart in the row, at Louth, in Lincolnshire, and averaged half a peck per root; one had three-quarters of a peck. Most of them that were set with single eyes brought forth the largest potatoes ; and those with more eyes, produced a greater number, but smaller." This coincides with experiments made some time ago, at the garden of the Horticultural Society ; sets with single eyes producing potatoes of more regular size than others.

We find no price affixed to the pamphlet, but we would advise those interested in potato culture to obtain it ; they will be pleased with its originality, simplicity of style, and the good feeling which pervades it.

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**THE APPLE, ITS CULTURE, USES, AND HISTORY.** (The 11th of the Gardener's Monthly Volumes.) By G. W. Johnson, and R. Errington, Gardener to Sir Philip Egerton, Bart. *Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., Paternoster-row, London. H. Wooldridge, High-street, Winchester.*

ANY information on a fruit so highly esteemed as the apple, is at all times acceptable. In the little work now before us, is a most interesting history of this fruit, tracing it to a very early period. There is a copious list of varieties, arranged alphabetically, with their synonyms ; thus enabling the reader or cultivator to ascertain the various designations given to the same sort, in different parts of the country.

Propagation is then treated of at length, in all its various modes ; and soil, situation and manures, standard or orchard culture, with the management of dwarf standards, close a very useful volume.

## Part III.

## QUERIES.



**ERICAS.**—Perhaps you, or some of your subscribers to the *Midland Florist*, could mention the result of any experiments upon the cutting-in of ericas. I find many kinds grow bare at the stem, after attaining a certain age; for instance, *Aitonia*, *Tricolor*, *Formosa*, the *Vestitas jasminiflora* and *alba*, and several others. I fear to cut the shoots off, lest by so doing, the plants might be injured. I am also at a loss to know at what time the cutting-in should take place, whether after flowering, or just before the growth begins. My plants are from two feet six inches to three feet in height, and fine specimens; but I fear many of them will be less bushy next season, unless trimmed in. An answer, or an article upon this subject, will much oblige,

G. A. P.

I will thank you to give a descriptive list of some of the best *potentillas*; and to state whether the stems should be tied to sticks, or be allowed to trail on the ground.

A SUBSCRIBER.

I perceive by the last number of the *Midland Florist*, that an Amateur Florist solicits an article on the culture of the *hépatica*: when giving it, would you kindly add a list of the varieties in growth, and where *Hepatica atropurpurea flore pleno*, or any other new variety, may be obtained?

Dublin.

I. G. C.

I have two apple trees in my garden, which have been planted about a year. They have made little progress, and on close examination, I find the bark of each tree is cracked, on the smaller branches. Can you tell me whether it is caused by too deep planting, or the soil not being suitable? The trees were removed from a strong clayey to a light friable soil. Perhaps you can tell me how to remedy the evil.

POMONA.

You will oblige by giving directions, in your next number, for the pruning of wall fruit trees, particularly *apricots* and *peaches*.

J. B. S.

May I beg the favour of you to give a list of *azaleas*, in an early number; and at the same time to state if they prefer a clayey soil to a light soil?

F. B. S.

Is it of any service to apply salt to *asparagus* beds, and when should it be done?

I. F.

[It may be applied now, and will be highly beneficial.]

Will you favour me with the names of a few new evergreens, sufficiently hardy to stand the climate of the midland counties, in winter? R. P.

[The following six are very good:—*Garreya elliptica*, *Laurus colchicum*, *Arbutus Millerii*, *Andromeda florabunda*, *Berberis coriaria*, *Menziesia alba stricta*.]

I have an acre and a half of land, which I want to plant as an orchard, and intend making the holes now, and planting the trees nearer spring. I want the holes twelve yards from each other, and as I am desirous of bespeaking the trees directly, will you say in your next how many it will take, and what you would advise me to put in?

A SINCERE ADMIRER OF THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

*North Notts.*

[In the first place we should make the holes, so that the trees, when planted, will stand due east and west. The number of trees required will be 100;—*Pears*: 10 Hessel.—*Cherries*: 10 Mayduke.—*Plums*: 10 Violet, 10 Damascene, 10 Orleans. *Apples*: 10 Spencer's Favourite, 5 New Bess Pool, 5 Lord Lennox, 5 Pike's Pearmain, 10 Golden Farmer, 5 Brabant Belle Fleur, 5 Blenheim Orange, 5 Travelling Queen.]

Will you, in your next little number, give the names of six apples, three for kitchen and three for dessert; also six pears, three early and three for keeping; also six plums, three for kitchen use and three for dessert? By so doing, you will oblige

G. W., A COTTAGE GARDENER.

[THREE APPLES FOR KITCHEN.—*Spencer's Favourite*: a large beautifully formed yellow apple, bears early and well; in season till Christmas.—*Blenheim Orange*, or *Woodstock Pippin*: large, fine form, yellowish, brownish red next the sun; keeps well, and when old bears abundantly.—*Normanton Wonder*: a large yellow fruit, will keep till May; an excellent sort for baking.

DESSERT APPLES.—*Ribstone Pippin*: first-rate in every respect. *Court pendu plat*, or *Wollaton Pippin*: bears early, blooms late, of compact growth, keeps to a late period.—*Kerry Pippin*: very good, and bears well.

EARLY PEARS.—*Citron des Carmes*: very early and very good. *Maria Louisa*: bears well, fine flavour.—*Jargonelle*: an old-established favourite.

LATE PEARS.—*Winter Nelis*: not very large, but bears well, and of fine quality.—*Monarch*: first-rate quality, raised by the late Mr. Knight.—*March Bergamot*: this is also an English variety, raised by Mr. Knight; though rather small, it keeps well, and is most excellent.

**EARLY PLUMS.**—*Wilmot's Early Orleans*: very productive and good.—*Green Gage*: the best flavour, and in some situations very productive.—*Violet*: one of the earliest; good bearer and fine flavour.

**LATE PLUMS.**—*Fellenberg*: a large purple plum, first-rate.—*Huling's Superb*: very large, pale yellow, fine.—*Ickworth Imperatrice*: extra fine, a very desirable sort.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to R. M., we must say, that the White Belgian Carrot will be found best for his purpose. It will take about four pounds to the acre.

I. B.—No, certainly not. *Magnum Bonum* is a fine break of Sir Sidney Smith. It is remarkably steady, which the latter is not.

**RED FEATHERED AND FLAMED TULIPS.**—JAMES MOORE.—As far as our opinion goes, we should certainly advocate creating fresh classes, at an exhibition, for these flowers; also for yellow picotees.

PETER.—Gunner is a rough yellow gooseberry; Railway is also a yellow; both are fine sorts.

JANE.—The mischievous blue tit, which eats her bees, may be caught by baiting the small latch mouse traps with a piece of suet.

In the last number of the *Midland Florist*, I read an article on the pink, by Mr. Bates, of Oxford. When speaking of the five pinks sent out in 1845, he should have said "Smith's Diana," and not "John Hampden;" Diana being the only seedling Pink sent out by Mr. S. that season. With regard to the standard of perfection in the pink, Glenney's is the one for me. I have it already, in the petal of my Foxhunter; and I anticipate a near approach to it in a flower, ere long.

Oxford.

RICHARD SMITH.

B. F. G., Derby.—**LATE-BLOOMING ROSES.**—The undermentioned are fine:—

**HYBRID PERPETUALS.**—*Auberon*, pale crimson; *Clementine Seringe*, large blush; *Comte de Paris*, reddish crimson; *Duchess of Sutherland*, fine blush; *Earl Talbot*, deep pink; *Edward Jesse*, light crimson; *General Allard*, deep rose; *Lady Alice Peel*, rosy crimson; *Lane*, shaded crimson; *Ma-*

*dame Laffay*, deep crimson, good; *Queen*, very large fine rose; *Rivers*, deep pink; *William Jesse*, very splendid crimson; *Yoland d'Arragon*, fine pink, in large clusters.

**DAMASK PERPETUALS.**—*Mogador*, vivid crimson; *Bernard*, blush rose.

**BOURBON.**—*Armosa*, an old blush variety, but very pretty; *Ceres*, beautiful rose colour; *Charles Souchet*, deep crimson; *Le Grenadier*, very beautiful deep pink; *Duc d'Aumale*, finely shaped pink; *Queen*, salmon-coloured; *Souvenir de Malmaison*, large creamy white; *Souchet*, deep crimson red.

**NOISETTE.**—*Miss Glegg*, dwarf white, very pretty; *Pourpre de Tyr*, crimson; *Jaune Desprez*, salmon-coloured.

**CHINA.**—*Cramoisa Superieur*, crimson; *Madame Breon*, extra fine pink.

**TEA-SCENTED.**—*Josephine Malton*, splendid white.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

### FOR JANUARY.

Now glass is so cheap, very many of our readers have constructed small greenhouses, or plant frames. To those who have a little spot of this kind, perhaps occasional hints may be of service. There are few plants which make a greater show than the *hydrangea*. The poor puny thing which we sometimes see struggling for existence in a pot, where the compost has been neglected, is but the ghost of the noble plant, which bears the winter in the Isle of Wight and south of England, luxuriating in the free soil and fine climate. It can, however, be grown fine in pots, by adopting the following plan:—From an old plant, take cuttings which show by the bulkiness of the terminal buds that there is an embryo flower; pot these cuttings singly in small pots, and plunge them in a moist heat. They will soon take root. Some rich compost must be prepared, and as the plants fill the pots with roots, they must undergo repeated *shiftings*. We have seen plants, thus treated, with heads of flowers that would barely go into a peck measure; and these singularly gorgeous heads, may, by judicious treatment and adaptation of soils, be induced to bear flowers of a most beautiful blue. But to this we purpose to allude more particularly, soon.

Towards the latter end of the month, *dahlia roots* may be put into a moist heat, and the cuttings struck; though this early period is seldom resorted to, except by extensive dealers.

*Musk seed* may be sown, or roots placed in pots, which they will soon fill. Annuals also, which may be required early, such

as *stocks*, *cockscombs*, *amaranths*, *zinnias* &c.; these, however, must be sown in a hotbed, as it will be unnecessary to have much heat in the greenhouse, or pit. Both these structures should be supplied with a thermometer; and the temperature should not exceed forty-five degrees. Water as seldom as possible, and as little as may be over the leaves. Keep all plants free from dead and decaying leaves; cleanliness at all seasons is indispensable, but at no period more than the present.

In the garden, seize the first opportunity of fine weather to sow the first crop of *early peas*. Few are better than the Early Warwick; Warner's Early Emperor is a fine and very early sort, and might be tried. As soon as the *peas* are breaking through the soil, they must be protected from snails, by sowing lime, soot, or salt over them, on a mild evening.

However small the garden, a proper system of cropping ought to be adopted, in order, as much as possible, to have a regular rotation; for though some vegetables, *onions* for instance, will grow for years on the same piece of ground, still it is advisable as much as possible not to grow the same vegetable two years together on the same spot. We should manage as follows:—Where *early cauliflowers* grow, when off, sow *Tripoli* or other *autumnal onions*. On the piece of land where this description of vegetable is now growing, *lettuce*, *spinach*, *Snow-ball turnip*, may be grown to advantage. *Celery* prepares the ground most capitally for any of the following vegetables:—*Peas*, *onions*, *turnips*, *carrots*, &c. Or again, *cauliflower brocoli* may be planted in wide rows, between which *peas* may be sown; the *brocoli* are cut and the stems pulled up, and the *peas* then occupy the ground; these are gathered when green, and the haulm pulled up, and the ground manured and sown with *turnips*, which, nine times out of ten, will produce a third crop off the same land, during the year.

All pruning should be attended to as quickly as possible; nailing and training wall trees; choosing as warm and calm days as possible for the operation, for it is no joke to do this sort of work when the wind is rough. The clogs used in Lancashire we would recommend to our friends *whose blood is not quite so warm as it used to be*; for when standing pruning, nailing, &c. a dry warm sole is worth having.

*Florists' Flowers*.—In this department little can be done, except giving extra care and attention to *auriculas* and *carnations*, in frames. Take care that none suffer from *drip*, or from the pots being badly drained. Give all the air possible, and bear in mind that more plants are killed at this season of the year, by being stewed up, than when they are *properly exposed* to the weather. Protect *pansies* from cutting winds; and cover *tulip beds* with mats, stretched on hoops, in severe weather. Prepare and turn compost heaps, and save all vegetable refuse, as this is *the life* of successful floristing.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ON THE EXORBITANT PRICE CHARGED FOR PINKS,  
CARNATIONS, AND PICOTEEES.

It is an admitted fact that the present age is one of cheapness; and I am unacquainted with a subject requiring a stricter investigation, with a view to its reform, than that of the present observations.

I have been at some pains in examining several catalogues of the above flowers, issued a few years ago, and those of the present day. In the former, the price of new or seedling flowers, with very few exceptions, do not, on an average, exceed half-a-guinea per pair. After a short period, in the autumn of 1841, Twitchett's Don John was first offered to the floricultural public, at the very modest price of two guineas a pair; Mrs. Barnard, rose picotee, made her *debut* at the same period, but at one-half the price of the former; and about two years ago, Hepworth's Hamlet was also offered at a similar price to Don John: thus introducing the one and two guinea charges.

As regards the pink, I particularly noticed the highest price charged was three shillings and sixpence a pair, which was for a new sort, called Harris's Emma. The increase in the price of new varieties progressed rapidly to five shillings and seven shillings and sixpence a pair. The first seedlings coming under my notice at the latter price, were sent out in the autumn of 1842, under the names of Brown's Model and Eclipse.

Mr. Wilmer, of Sunbury, and Mr. Halliday, of Northampton, have arrived at the climax of high prices; the former charging half-a-guinea a pair for his seedling pink, Laura; and the latter *fifty shillings* a pair for his seedling crimson bizarre, Thomas Hewlett. I am at a loss to conceive what ideas these gentlemen entertain as to the elasticity of a florist's purse; if it were composed of *caoutchouc*, I do not imagine it would stretch to the extent of purchasing their flowers at the very exorbitant prices above quoted. It is, however, neither my wish nor my desire to detract from the well earned merit of any florist, who may be fortunate in originating a new variety; but considering that the class of flowers now under discussion do not require any extraordinary trouble in their cultivation—generally developing their properties in the second year from the seedling state, and frequently the raiser may have sufficient stock to enable him to offer them to the public at the end of the third year—I do affirm, it is rather too much to require such an exorbitant price as two guineas, or even half that sum, for a pair of carnations or picotees, and half-a-guinea, or seven shillings and sixpence for a pair of pinks. My opinion on this point is already corroborated, by a correspondent, whose remarks will be found in the first volume of the *Midland Florist*, at page 70, who, in an article on the pink, concludes with a similar observation as to their easy culture and increase, and confesses “it is rather *green* to pay so dear for one's whistle.”

My ideas of a standard price for new varieties are to the following effect:—No seedling carnation or picotee, for the first year, should be charged a higher sum than half-a-guinea a pair, unless a very superior first-class flower, and then not to exceed fifteen shillings; the second year one-half, and the third year one-third of the first year's price. For seedling pinks, five shillings a pair to be the maximum price.

I have read Mr. Bates's remarks on the pink, and

I fully concur with him as to the desirableness of a standard of the properties of this particular flower being adopted; but where there are so many conflicting opinions on certain points, I am afraid it will be a difficult task to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. I do not coincide in his opinion as to lacing; my idea is, that where the lacing is carried to the extremity of the petal, it tends in a great degree to disguise a serrated flower; whilst on the other hand, where there is a feather edge, or white band, intervening betwixt the lacing and the edge, the smoothness or serrature of the petal is obvious; besides which it adds to the chaste appearance of the flower.

AMATOR FLORUM.

*Wolverhampton.*

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ON THE

IMPROVEMENT OF FLORICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

MUCH was said last year respecting improvements in our floricultural exhibitions, but no one has yet advanced a code of laws for that purpose. Although great improvement might be made on existing regulations, yet I fear it would be impossible to make all *growers honest show-ers*; especially when the temptation of a prize is, with some exhibitors, so strong, that even a midnight prowling is not scrupled at, if an addition can be made to their own collection, at the expense of a poor man and a neighbour. I fear there are few, if any, societies whose lists are clear of these gentry. Of a similar class are those who, when unsuccessful, seek to villify their more fortunate competitors. By the way, as a case in point (for now-a-days you must give *instances*, if your complaints are to carry any weight), I may refer to the late open tulip show at Wakefield, where an exhibitor from

Leeds bore away the prize. Not the slightest objection to the flower he exhibited was made at the time, but shortly, some evil-disposed party, more disappointed than honest, got up a rumour that one of the blooms was not his own growing, but was the property of another man. Now the exhibiter has produced the signatures of nearly forty gentlemen, whose veracity will not bear a doubt, who will guarantee that the report is an entire fabrication. The Leeds society, in their own defence, originated a strict inquiry as to the author of this assertion, but without success. Such cases, there is reason to fear, are not unfrequent, and often a respectable exhibiter prefers retiring altogether from such unworthy competition, of course to the injury of the society he leaves.

Surely no remarks can be too strong to condemn such low and dishonourable tricks; but the worst of it is, that these people are impervious to all such lecturing, and it is a somewhat difficult matter to serve an ejectment.

If we could only get the exhibitors to act in concert, on the golden rule of doing as they would be done by, we should have our societies healthy and flourishing, and floriculture would again become our pleasing study, purely for the sake of competition, true friendship, and goodwill to each other.

FAIRPLAY.

*Kirkstall, near Leeds.*

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### RAISING SEEDLING TULIPS.

As the raising of florists' flowers from seed is always most interesting, perhaps the following remarks on raising tulips may not be without interest to the readers of the *Midland Florist*.

It was customary with growers, twenty years ago, to make their sowings in October, or November, but since then, experience has proved that the spring is a

much better time to put in the seed ; and it has now to be ascertained whether early or late-sown seed will produce the largest bulbs, and, at the same time, the greatest number from the same quantity of seed. In sowing the seed, I would recommend that it be not scattered at random over the soil, but separately planted, by gently pressing the point of the seed, where the germ can be seen, into the soil, half an inch apart, and when covered over, about the same depth ; in rows, two inches asunder ; and in a box of light rich soil, with good drainage—in which be particular, for on this point a vast deal depends.

For my own use, I employ large raisin boxes, and after taking out the bottoms, I nail strong strips of wood from side to side, leaving spaces of three or four inches between strip and strip, in order to secure sufficient drainage. I then fill up three inches with potsherds, or oyster shells, carefully laid over the interstices, and cover over with a little moss, to prevent the soil from becoming mixed with the drainage ; and then fill up to the top of the box with soil, which will settle down half an inch. When the seeds break through, which will be in the course of six or seven weeks, let the boxes have a situation where they can receive the full influence of the morning sun, without being exposed to it at mid-day, or the tender seedlings might become scorched, and die off, before the roots had ceased to grow ; for it should be borne in mind, that the longer time they remain in a growing state, the larger will the seedlings be found when they are taken up ; therefore their growth should be encouraged as long as possible. When the surface is bare of foliage, the boxes should be placed out of the reach of rain, that the bulbs may take up in good condition ; for, although, by allowing the soil to become saturated with moisture, as I have seen recommended, in order to swell the bulbs, they may be found larger, yet afterwards, in drying, it will cause them to exhibit a much more

shrivelled appearance, than if the soil had been suffered to dry gradually for three or four weeks before taking up. And this holds good with the main stock bulbs, which ought not to receive rain after the bloom is off.

And now with respect to the best time of planting the seeds—whether late or early in the spring. I find by an experiment made by myself, last spring, that the seeds, if planted as late as the 18th of March, will make larger bulbs than those planted in the beginning of January; as far disproportionate as twenty-one is to ten—that is, I found it required twenty-one bulbs from the early-planted seeds to carry the same weight as ten bulbs from those which were planted later in the season. And here I would call upon all growers of seedlings to assist in making trial, during the next spring, by planting the seed at various times—at intervals of three or four weeks—and taking notes of their experience, and recording the same in the *Midland Florist*, for the benefit of each other.

The length of time required before seedlings are developed, has, no doubt, deterred many growers from undertaking their management; for with most of us present prospects are the grand inducement. But if, upon fair trial, it be found that, merely by altering the time of planting the seed, a year can be gained—and which, I think, will be the least we may calculate upon—would it not be a long stride in advance? and might also prove an inducement to almost every grower of the tulip to become a raiser of seedlings.

I intend, if spared till another spring, to carry out the practice, and to defer planting to a still later period than before mentioned; for I do not doubt but that the result will be favourable, in finding both larger bulbs and greater produce.

J. B.

October 22, 1847.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF THE BEST FIFTY PANSIES

WHICH HAVE HITHERTO COME UNDER THE OBSERVATION OF  
MR. T. THOMPSON, FLORIST, OF IVER, NEAR UXBRIDGE.

MR. THOMPSON is well known as the raiser of some of the best pansies grown; and in reply to the inquiries of several correspondents, he has forwarded the following list:—

- Almanzor* (Le Mesurier).—White and purple.  
*Arethusa* (Brown).—White and purple.  
*Atila* (Hooper).—Very fine shape, straw and purple.  
*Bishop of Oxford* (Thompson).—Large, a fine white and blue flower.  
*Beauty of Guildford* (Hart).—White and purple.  
*Berryer* (Hooper).—Dark marone.  
*Bridesmaid* (Kirkland).—Extra fine white.  
*Blooming Girl* (Hooper).—White and blue purple.  
*Cyprus* (Thompson).—Yellow, with narrow purple belt.  
*Constellation* (Thompson).—A very fine flower, straw and light purple.  
*Candidate* (Thompson).—Cream and bright purple, good.  
*Cossack* (Thompson).—Extra shape, dark marone.  
*Climax* (Bell).—White and blue purple, fine.  
*Companion* (Hooper).—Chocolate, singular.  
*Duchess of Rutland* (Thompson).—White and delicate lilac.  
*Duke of Rutland* (Thompson).—Fine, white and bright purple.  
*Duke of Wellington* (Hooper).—Large dark chocolate.  
*Excellent* (Thompson).—Yellow and bronze.  
*Empress* (Hooper).—Golden yellow and crimson purple.  
*Exquisite* (King).—White and lilac, fine.  
*Grand Sultan* (Youell).—Dark plum.  
*Gloria Mundi* (Hooper).—Yellow, and fine purple edge.  
*Great Britain* (Hooper).—Fine yellow, with purple edge.  
*Lady Sale* (Hooper).—White and dark purple.  
*Lord Hardinge* (Gosset).—Fine straw and rosy purple.  
*Lord Morpeth* (Major).—Yellow.  
*Mary* (Thompson).—Very fine shape, straw coloured with purple.  
*Mr. M. Hamilton* (Nasmyth).—White and purple, fine.  
*Mrs. M. Hamilton* (Nasmyth).—White and dark purple.  
*Othello* (Turner).—Extra fine dark.  
*Optimus* (Turner).—White and purple, fine.  
*Paran* (Thompson).—Pure white and blue, a fine sort.  
*Perfection* (Thompson).—Splendid yellow.  
*Perseus* (Collison).—Yellow and lilac purple.

- President* (Schofield).—Extra, yellow and purple.  
*Pre-eminent* (Thompson).—Distinct fine purple, blue eye.  
*Prince of Orange* (Thompson).—Orange and light bronze.  
*Pulcher* (Thompson).—Yellow and purple.  
*Queen of Whites* (Hart).—Good self white.  
*Rainbow* (Thompson).—Yellow and purple, rayed with bronze.  
*Rainbow* (Hall).—Fine dark purple.  
*Satirist* (Thompson).—Dark bronze, with brown eye, very fine.  
*Snowdrop* (Marchmont).—Good formed white, small.  
*Superb* (King).—White and blue, extra fine.  
*Supreme* (Youell).—Rich yellow and marone.  
*Tryphosa*.—Bright yellow, with bronzy purple, fine eye.  
*White Sergeant* (Cook).—Fine white.  
*Wonderful* (Hooper).—Gold and bronze.  
*Yellow Standard* (Lakin).—Yellow, fine eye.  
*Zabdi* (Thompson).—Golden yellow, bright purple belt.
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## ON HARDY AQUATIC PLANTS.

BY THE EDITOR.

FOUNTAINS are most beautiful objects, when carried out on a large scale, or at all commensurate with the surrounding scenery; and we know of few places where they would have so fine an effect as in the front of the houses lately built in the Park Hollow, Nottingham. Many feet immediately above them are the reservoirs of the waterworks company, by which means jets of a powerful character could be obtained, equal, if not superior, to most in the kingdom. We trust this hint will not be lost sight of by the spirited lessees of this beautiful spot. To these might be added small aquariums, rendered highly ornamental and interesting, by the assemblage of plants, attractive either by their beauty or their singularity; and in fact any of our readers, even the humblest of them, might form a collection of hardy water plants, in the event of a brook, or rill of water passing by or through their gardens.

Many beautiful flowers, cultivated as border plants, or in a greenhouse, will flourish in situations of this kind. Amongst others, the *Lobelias fulgens* and



cardinalis, two splendid scarlet-flowering plants, may be treated as aquatics. The *Calla Æthiopica* (Ethiopian Calla), with its large white vase-like flowers; and the *Agapanthus umbellatus* (Umbellate African Lily), so much admired for its crown of blue, will bloom most satisfactorily in small ponds, the pots being placed below the surface of the water. The mimuluses, or monkey flowers, are also peculiarly adapted for this purpose.

When in Belgium, we saw the following aquatics potted in large pots, which were placed in the circular basin, in the botanic garden, at Brussels:—

<i>Callitriche verna</i> .....	Spring Water Starwort.
<i>Juncus conglomeratus</i> ..	Conglomerated Rush.
<i>Calla palustris</i> .....	Marsh Calla.
<i>Sium latifolia</i> .....	Broad-leaved Water Parsnip.
<i>Ranunculus lingua</i> .....	Tongue-leaved Crowfoot.
<i>Potamogeton gramineum</i>	Grass-leaved Pondweed.
" <i>natans</i> ..	Natant Pondweed.
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i> ..	Amphibious Polygonum.
<i>Aponogeton distachyon</i> ..	Two-spiked Aponogeton.
<i>Sparganium simplex</i> ....	Simple Bur Reed.
<i>Typha angustifolia</i> ....	Narrow-leaved Catstail.
" <i>latifolia</i> .....	Broad-leaved Catstail.
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i> ..	Common Arrow-leaved Arrowhead.
<i>Triglochin maritimum</i> ..	Sea Arrowgrass.
<i>Hydrochloa aquatica</i> ..	Water Hydrochloa.
<i>Nymphaea advena</i> .....	Stranger Water Lily.
" <i>alba</i> .....	White Water Lily.
" <i>lutea</i> .....	Yellow Water Lily.
<i>Alisma ranunculoides</i> ..	Ranunculus-like Water Plantain.
" <i>natans</i> .....	Floating Water Plantain.
" <i>plantago</i> .....	Plantain-leaved Water Plantain.
<i>Comarum palustre</i> .....	Marsh Comarum.
<i>Pontederia cordata</i> ....	Heart-leaved Pontederia.
<i>Hydrocharis morsus rara</i>	Frogsbite Frogsbit.
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i> ....	Flowering Rush.
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> ..	Three-leaved Buckbean.
<i>Myosotis palustris</i> .....	Marsh Scorpion Grass.
<i>Cladium Germanicum</i> ..	German Claudium.

The majority of these are natives of Britain, and would make a most interesting collection, in suitable situations.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**DENISTOUN'S SUPERB PLUM.**—The fruit of this fine American variety is green, somewhat like our old favourite the Greengage. It is eminently productive *and hardy*.

**THE FRIZZLED FILBERT.**—This is a singular and well-marked variety, the husk being much lacinated, or fringed, which gives it a very pretty appearance on the tree or table. It is rather more diffuse in its growth than the White Filbert, and succeeds well grafted standard high on the Spanish nut; which plan we adopted years ago, in the nurseries at Chilwell. It is very prolific, and well worthy of cultivation.

## APPLES.

**KEDDLESTON PIPPIN.**—This excellent dessert apple was raised near Derby, and does not appear to be much known out of the midland counties. It is rather small, slightly conical, yellow, and of excellent flavour; it is also very productive.

**NEW BESS POOL.**—The old variety, from which this sort was raised, is also a well-known apple of the midland counties, the tree attaining a large size, and when in full vigour, is very productive. The great drawback to the original sort is, that it seldom bears much, till it is ten or twenty years old. The New Bess Pool is an improvement in this respect, bearing early; it is also extremely handsome and large, and well adapted for market.

## PEARS.

**SOLDAT LABOUREUR.**—This fine variety of pear was raised by the late Major Esperin, of Malines. It is extremely prolific, and in season in January and February. The fruit is of large size, and high flavour.

**CRASSANE D'HIVER.**—We have a Winter Crassane, raised by the late Andrew Knight, Esq. This, however, is a Continental variety, said to be far superior. It is a good bearer, ripens in January and February, and the flesh is melting and of first-rate excellence.

## CHERRIES.

The number of varieties of this popular fruit is yearly increasing; a new early sort is thus described by Mr. Rivers:—**BELLE D'ORLEANS.**—Ripens early in June; large, sweet, and excellent.

**LOUIS PHILLIPE.**—This is a great bearer, compact in its style of growth, rather like the Kentish in appearance, very sweet, and juicy.

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HARDY PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**PÆONIA ALBIFLORA GRANDIFLORA.**—The varieties of these noble hardy plants are now becoming very numerous, and they would make a splendid feature at a floricultural exhibition, affording great diversity of marking, colour, and form, there being now many double as well as single sorts, pre-eminently beautiful. The one recorded above deserves the name of *grandiflora* (large-flowered), as the flowers are extremely fine; they are, however, single, and of a clear white, which contrasts well with the numerous large golden anthers in the centre of the flower.

**PENTSTEMON GENTIANOIDES ALBA.**—The scarlet variety of this beautiful plant is one of the best for bedding in the summer, profusely blooming till a late period. This new variety has pure white flowers, and is extremely handsome.

**PENTSTEMON GENTIANOIDES MAC EWANI.**—This is a beautiful seminal variety, deep rose, with a distinct white throat; it does not rise so high as the preceding, and is very desirable.

The above three plants will prove a decided acquisition to any garden.

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## NEW PLANTS FOR BEDDING OUT.

### PETUNIAS.

**MODEL.**—Dark rich blue crimson, with large pure white eye, splendid form, and fine habit.

**LADY OF THE LAKE.**—A large and novel flower, the ground colour being white, with a broad streak of lavender down the centre of each lobe.

### VERBENAS.

**BARKER'S ST. MARGARET.**—Distinct and beautiful, large truss, scarlet, with dark centre.

**BARKER'S LADY OF THE LAKE.**—Very bright deep rose, blooming in large trusses.

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## HALF HARDY PLANT.

**GLADIOLUS GANDAVENSIS.** (*The Ghent Corn Flag.*) Most people know the common corn flag, with its crimson flowers, and sword-shaped leaves. The variety named above is infinitely superior to this last,

and certainly is most lovely. It is not sufficiently hardy to bear our winters in the open ground; but it may be taken up like a tulip, crocus, &c. and replanted about the latter end of March, in very rich light soil. The whole tribe of half hardy gladioles make splendid summer border plants. Many fine varieties have been raised from seed, in this country, and we should like to see them more extensively cultivated, feeling assured that if brought into notice they would be highly appreciated.

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### HARDY SHRUBS.

The *Garreya elliptica* is now becoming tolerably well known to those who are fond of evergreens. We have, however, to record here a new variety, with narrow willow-shaped leaves, called *GARREYA MACFAYDIANA*. We received it from the Horticultural Society of London. It will, no doubt, prove extremely handsome.

*ILEX CALIMISTRATA PICTA*.—This is a very distinct and new variegated holly, with singularly contorted foliage. All hollies are esteemed, and this, doubtless, will be eagerly sought after.

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### GREENHOUSE CLIMBING PLANTS.

WE have been asked to name a few good climbing plants for the greenhouse, that are easily attainable:

*TROPÆOLUM TRICOLORUM*.—We saw this plant at Walton, near Liverpool, in the excellent establishment of Mr. Skirving, who, we believe, was the first nurseryman to offer it to the trade; plants, in thumb pots, six inches high, selling readily at a guinea each. The flowers are produced in great profusion, on its

thin wire-like stems, and are scarlet and black, or nearly so. Trained to a light wire trellis, a more beautiful object cannot well be conceived.

**KENNEDYA MONOPHYLLA**, is a great favourite, light and airy in its appearance, blooming most abundantly, and producing spikes of small pea-shaped flowers, of the most lovely blue possible. Either for a pillar, rafter, or trellis, it is first-rate.

**PASSIFLORA KERMESINA**.—The flowers of this beautiful plant are crimson. It has a splendid appearance when trained to a rafter, its branches being allowed to hang in light festoons.

**TROPEOLUM SPECIOSUM**.—This is a distinct and beautiful variety of nasturtian. The flowers are scarlet, and the foliage very handsome. It is an excellent addition to this fine tribe of plants.

The above are now easily procurable, and are extremely showy.



## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

### TULIPS.

**SIR HARRY SMITH (Banton)**.—A tulip raised from seed by an enthusiastic florist, at Teigh, near Rutland. It belongs to the red class, and either in the feathered or flamed state is very handsome. Should separate classes be established among florists, at their exhibitions, for this description of tulip, Sir Harry Smith will be a favourite.

**MONUMENT (Dixon)**.—Feathered rose. This is a welcome addition to a scarce class. On some soils, it appears to open rather cloudy; but on others it is perfectly pure. The feathering is heavy, laid on in the style of *Magnum Bonum*. It will rise to about the third row, a strong root getting to that height.

## VEGETABLES.

Any thing which may be an improvemunt on existing varieties is always welcome; and we may venture to recommend a most beautiful *curled parsley*; it is termed USHER'S EXQUISITE, and is first-rate.

TELFORD'S SUPERB EARLY DWARF CABBAGE, will also prove a valuable acquisition, not only from its extreme earliness, but also for its hardness and good flavour.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## LAW OF GARDENS.

WE quite agree with Mr. Taylor, that many people do remove plants, trees, and shrubs, on quitting a garden; and in nine cases out of ten, if not removed, they are valued to the incoming tenant; and very proper that it should be so. But Mr. Taylor would be wrong, did he suppose that he could do it *legally*. We here subjoin an eminent counsel's opinion, which will prove to him the risk he ran in removing "*trees, shrubs, flower roots, and even soil, in spite of his landlord.*" "A tenant (unless a nurseryman, who plants for sale) cannot remove any tree or shrub, and therefore cannot take away dwarf rose trees. It is often done, and not noticed, *but it is decidedly illegal.*"

Some parties, when leaving a place, finding they could not remove the trees and shrubs, have cut them down; *but they also were equally actionable*, for the law prohibits *waste*, with any *malevolent intentions*. The decision given in the case of *Buckland versus Butterfield*, establishes this point; for "*a tenant is liable to pay for the waste, if he cuts down or destroys,*" &c.

It has also been decided by Lord Denman, Mr. Justice Littledale, and Mr. Justice Parke, that a tenant could not remove a border of box, planted in the garden by himself; but that it belonged to the landlord, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary. In the course of the argument, the counsel for the tenant asked, "*Could not a tenant remove flowers, which he had planted in the ground?*" Mr. Justice Littledale instantly said, "NO."

We think all our floricultural readers will agree with us, that if this is the law (which it undoubtedly is), the sooner the law of tenant-right is altered the better.

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## VILLAGE FLORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

WE know of few things calculated to do more general good than the establishment of societies of this kind, and especially when under the fostering care, and patronised by the higher classes, in the various parishes throughout the kingdom.

The man is a miserable wretch indeed, in whose breast a spirit of emulation cannot be engendered; and however poor he may be, creating within him an interest in the soil and its products, giving him a moral footing in society, and causing him to entertain feelings of self respect, is a task worthy of the genuine philanthropist, and what the higher classes should endeavour most earnestly and zealously to promote. It is well known, when the lower grades of society are, from various causes, in a state of want and destitution, that the middle classes are also seriously affected; and when these two are thus situated the aristocracy and gentry can hardly be considered safe. Of a truth, the only capital the poor man is possessed of is *his labour*; and when the demand for that ceases, which unfortunately now is of frequent occurrence, he must either beg, starve,



or go to the workhouse. We want a better feeling throughout the country. We wish to see the labourer and artizan able to look up to their superiors with confidence, trust, and respect. And we want a feeling of gratitude pervading those hearts which but too often are filled with rancour and jealousy towards those above them. How then are the golden cords which hold society together to be strengthened? How is this desirable consummation to be brought about? By those whom Providence has blessed with means, using *those means* for the welfare of suffering humanity, and creating in their own immediate neighbourhoods a kindly grateful spirit amongst those who are within the sphere of example, precept, or benevolence. That there are many bright examples of excellent, fatherly landlords, and grateful, happy tenants, we well know; but our earnest desire is to see the beauteous spirit of philanthropy winging its way through the length and breadth of our own country, once called "*Happy England*," and shedding its hallowing spirit-raising influence on the destitute, the suffering, and the deserving, amongst our fellow men.

We entertain the idea that much of this good may be promoted by the introduction of allotments in the neighbourhood of all villages, and a better system of cultivation of fruits and flowers; and by the encouragement of a laudable spirit of emulation amongst our artizans and workpeople; which we shall endeavour to point out in our next number.



### LIST OF HARDY ANNUALS.

THE following list of a few hardy annuals will be found useful to parties having small gardens; as they may be all sown next month, in the open borders, and require no further trouble. The height of each variety will be a guidance as to the part of the border in which they should be sown; the colour of each

flower is also given, in order that they may be so placed that two flowers of the same colour shall not come together.

*Flos Adonis* (Pheasant's Eye, or Ox Eye).—Height, 1 foot; crimson; native of various parts of Europe; time of flowering, June and August.

*Aster Tenella*.—1 foot; blue; native of North America; August and September.

*Calendula Pluvialis* (Cape Marigold).—1 foot; white and purple; Cape of Good Hope; June and August.

*Calliopsis Bicolor* (*Coreopsis Tinctoria*).—2 feet; orange and brown; North America; July and September.

*Iberis Umbellata* (Normandy Candy-tuft).—1 foot; purple; Candia; June and July.

*Iberis Coronaria* (White Rocket Candy-tuft).—1 foot; white; Crete; June and July.

*Silene Armerea* (Lobel's Catchfly).—1 foot; pink; France; June and August.

*Clarkia Pulchella* (Pretty Clarkia).—1½ foot; rose colour; California; June and September.

*Collinsia Bicolor* (Two-coloured Collinsia).—1½ foot; lilac and white; California; June and July.

*Erysimum Peroffskianum* (Treacle Mustard).—2 feet; orange; Palestine; June and September.

*Eutoca Wrangliana* (Baron Wrangle's Eutoca).—1 foot; lilac; California; June and August.

*Gilia Tricolor* (Three-coloured Gilia).—1 foot; California; June and August.

*Hieracium Barbata* (Yellow Hawkweed).—1 foot; yellow; south of France; June and August.

*Delphinium Humile Ajacis* (Dwarf Rocket Larkspur).—1 foot various colours; Tauria; June to September.

*Lavatera Tremestris* (Three-month Lavatera).—3 to 4 feet; red and white; Syria; June to August.

*Leptosiphon Densiflora* (Close-flowered Leptosiphon).—1 foot; lilac; California; June.

*Amaranthus Candatus* (Love lies bleeding).—2 feet; crimson and white; East Indies; June to September.

*Lupinus Lutea* (Yellow Lupin).—1½ foot; yellow; Spain; June and September.

*Lupinus Nanus* (Dwarf Lupin).—6 inches; blue; California; May to October.

*Lupinus Crookshankii* (Crookshank's Lupin).—3 feet; white, blue, and yellow; Peru; June and August.

*Malope Grandiflora* (Large-flowered Mallow).—3 feet; rose Barbary; June to October.

*Resæda Odorata* (Mignonette).—9 inches; light brown; Barbary; June to November.

- Nemophilla Insignis* (Showy Nemophilla).—9 inches; blue and white; California; June to October.
- Lychnis Læta* (Dwarf Lychnis).—9 in.; rose; Portugal; June.
- Godetia Rosa Alba* (Rose and White Godetia).—1 foot; California; June and October.
- Lathyrus Odoratus* (Common Sweet Peas).—3 feet; various; Sicily; June to October.
- Campanula Speculum* (Venus's Looking-glass).—1 foot; blue; south of Europe; June and July.
- Malcomia Maritima* (Virginian Stock).—feet; lilac and white; June to October.
- Convolvulus Tricolor* (Minor Convolvulus, or Bindweed).—1 foot; blue; Portugal; June to August.
- Madia Elegans* (Elegant Madia).—3 feet; yellow; California; June to July.

The following require a little more care in their culture, by being sown in pots, and placed under a hand-glass, or in a hot-bed, and afterwards transplanted into smaller pots, and kept in a cool frame, or greenhouse, until the proper time to turn them into the borders, which will be about the beginning of May.

- Alonsoa Incisifolia* (Mask Flower).—2 feet; red; Chili; June to October.
- Balsamina Hortensis* (Double Balsam).—2 feet; various; East Indies; June to September.
- Callistephas* (German Aster).—1½ foot; various; July to October.
- Cobæa Scandens* (Climbing Cobæ).—purple; adapted for verandas or trellis work; June to September.
- Hibiscus Africanus* (African Bladder, Ketmei).—2 feet; cream coloured, dark centre; Africa; June and August.
- Jacoea Senecio Elegans* (Ragwort, or Groundsell).—1½ foot; various; Cape of Good Hope; June and September.
- Lobelia Gracilis* (Slender Lobelia).—6 inches; blue and white; Cape of Good Hope; June and September.
- Tagetus Erecta* (African Marigold).—2 feet; orange and yellow; Mexico; June and October.
- Tagetus Patula* (French Marigold).—1½ foot; various; Mexico; June to October.
- Tropæolum Majus Atrosanguinea* (Dark Crimson Nasturtian).—Lima; June to October.
- Phlox Drummondii* (Drummond's Phlox).—1 foot; various; Mexico; June to September.
- Schizanthus Retusus* (Retuse-flowered Scizanthus).—2 feet; crimson; Chili; June to October.
- Schizanthus Pinnatus* (Pinnate-leaved Schizanthus).—1 foot; lilac and purple; Chili; June to September.

*Salpiglossis*.—2 feet ; various ; Chili ; June to September.

*Mathiola Annua* (Ten-week Stocks).—1½ foot ; various ; south of Europe ; June to September.

*Mathiola Annua* (German varieties of Ten-week Stocks).—1 foot ; various ; south of Europe ; June to September.

*Amberboa Moschata* (Sweet Sultan).—2 feet ; purple and white ; Persia ; June to October.

*Tropæolum Canariensis* (Canary Bird Flower).—Bright yellow ; adapted for verandas, or trellis work ; Peru ; June to October.

*Zinnia Elegans Coccinea* (Scarlet-flowered Zinnia).—2 feet ; Mexico ; June to September.

*Gardener's Gazette.*

## BEST CARNATIONS SENT OUT IN AUTUMN, 1847.

**SCARLET BIZARRES.**—Holliday's Lord Ranccliffe and Grand Master.

**CRIMSON BIZARRES.**—Slater's Gladiator, Holliday's Thomas Hewlett, and Ely's Great Britain.

**PINK AND PURPLE BIZARRES.**—Ward's Sarah Payne.

**PURPLE FLAKES.**—Barringer's Earl Spencer, Holliday's Vernon Smith, and Holliday's Queen of Purples.

**SCARLET FLAKES.**—Holliday's Queen of Scarlets and Hale's Sir H. Smith.

**ROSE FLAKES.**—Holliday's Mr. Banton, Holliday's Ferdinand, and May's Ariel.

*Gardener's Journal.*

## SYNONYMS OF TULIPS.

THE following list has appeared in the *Floriculturist*, and so far as it relates to the old sorts, it is tolerably accurate, but our readers of the new school can number many other names for the same tulip of modern break ; and the dispersion of Clarke's fine breeders has made many a tulip-grower an innocent offender in increasing the names of one and the same flower. The identical variety which is named after a Tory in one bed, is honoured by that of a Radical in another ; one man making kings, another musicians ; a third, poets ; a fourth, race horses ; a fifth names a whole batch after favourite dancers, or popular novels ; the

identical flower is to be found broken in half-a-dozen different collections. The same season it is equally new to all, and each, as is very natural, names his own; hence the evil must go on increasing, without any design on the part of the growers. But the evil is increased by naming new-broke flowers, well known to have been broken by somebody else, or even by a great many others. By this time, Polyphemus has at least a dozen names, and, as many are broken every year, will perhaps have a dozen more. However, the following, among the old ones, will help people to observe and strike out a few names from their tulip-books:—

### AN ANALYSIS OF THE NAMES OF TULIPS,

CONTAINING ALL THE SYNONYMS WITH WHICH THE EDITOR IS ACQUAINTED.

**ROSES.**—*Andromache*, Dutch Globertina, Strong's Globe, Cassandra, Maria Louisa—*Athalia*, Robinet, Catherine—*Baccu*, Bacchus—*Beauté Supreme*, *Beauté Touchante*—*Catalani*, La Tendresse, Cerise Blanc, Ponceau tres Blanc, Minerva—*Camuse de Craix*, Aldegonde de Cerise, Bathsheba—*Duchess of Clarence*, Duchess of Gloucester, Reynolds's William Thomas—*Georgius Tertius*, Pearson's Fair Helen—*Hebe*, Queen of England—*Mantua Ducal*, Cerise Royale—*Maria Theresa*, Surpass Reine de Hungary—*Pretiosa*, Thunderbolt, Rose Mervelieu—*Prince William IV.*, Rose Henrica—*Reine des Cerises*, Bartlett's Rosetta, Gurrier, Sysagambis, Iphigenia—*Rose Brilliant*, Rose Camuse, Primo bien de Noir, Strong's Old Rose Camuse, Mon Cœur, and sometimes Bathsheba—*Rose Daphne*, Diana, Incomparable, Voorhelm, Premier Noble—*Rose Premier*, sometimes imposed upon the unwary and young fancier as Reine de Roses. (The editor knows a fancier who, when young, was induced to give five guineas for an offset of it, under the latter name: it did not bloom with him for several years, and when the imposition was discovered, there was no redress.)—*Triumph de Flora*, Domingo, Harvey's Rose—*Triumph Royal*, Heroine.

**BYBLOEMENS.**—*Alcon*, Grand Mervelle, Alexander Magnus, Tower of Salisbury, Strong's Lord Hawke—*Ambassador de Holland*, Prince Sovereign of the Netherlands—*Acapulco*, Charles Fox, La Pucelle Amiable, Roi de Siam, Roi de Congo—*Archelaus*, Violet Antonio—*Bien fait*, *Beauté Virginale*—*Boadicea*, Duchess of Wellington, La Amite, La joi Blanc, Countess of Berwick—*Duc de Florence*, Duchess of Tuscany, La Medea—*European*, Young Roscius, Brook's Perle d'Angleterre—*Franciscus Primus*, Moreau, Imperatrice Romaine, Violet deli-

cate, Bell's Violet, La Doree—*Gloria Mundi*, Gloria Alborum, Violet Perfecta, Governor General, Director General—*Grandeur Touchant*, Rex Nigrorum, Joyning's Cornwallis, Captain Lamson—*La Fidelle Grosdeline*, Quaker, Violet Hombre—*Proserpine*, Roi de St. Epagne—*La Virginite*, La Purite—*La Mere Brune*, Violet Triumphant, Caffee Royale, Zwart's Violet, Trepheemia, Violet Antonia—*Lady Elizabeth*, La Genteel—*Louis XVI.* has many tribes; a coarse one was known as Lord Cornwallis a few years ago—*Maitre Partout*, Sir John England's Erin go Bragh—*Numitor*, Reine de Egypt—*Reine de Sheba*, Mentor, Belle Irelandoise—*Violet Rougette*, Desideretta—*Washington*, Rodney.

BIZARRES.—*Abaddon*, Fleur de Parade—*Abercrombie*, Sanzio—*Gabel's King*, Gabel's Duke of York, Strong's Captain White, Strong's Captain Black, Strong's Admiral White, Strong's Old Admiral White—*Cancellier*, St. Bernard—*Castrum Dolores*, Catafalca—*Charbonier Fine*, Charbonier Noir, Austin's Emperor Alexander, Cenotaphium—*Carter's Leopold*, Cræsus, Strong's No. 1—*Count Platoff*, Garnett's Waterloo, Page's George IV., Strong's Charles X., Commander, Gabel's Glory—*Duke of Clarence*, Lawrence's—*Davey's Trafalgar*, Guido—*Duke of Bedford*, Carlo Dolce, Vandyke, Lady Collingwood, Earl Munster—*Emperor of Austria*, Goldham's Reform—*Garrick*, Shakspeare, Rembrandt, Edmund Kean—*Gordianus*, Mason's Yellow, fine and black—*Hector*, Ne plus ultra, Milo, Henry le Grand, Henrietta—*Jourdan*, Feu Devorant—*Junius Brutus*, Cato, Gabel's Nelson, Earl Stanhope—*Jolly*, Grand Patriarch, Sir Launcelot—*Leopoldina*, Viola que surpasse—*Optimus*, Newington Beauty—*Polyphemus*, Albion—*Reis Effendi*, Surpass Polyphemus—*Walker's King*, Andrew's King—*Surpass Catafalque*, Earl St. Vincent, Godfrey's St. Vincent, Drinkwater's William Pitt.

## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



It is with us at all times a pleasant duty to notice with approval the labours of our contemporaries; and as a fresh candidate for public favour has appeared, under the superintendence of Mr. Beck, of Isleworth, styled *The Florist*, we give it as a “new comer,” in all courtesy, the preference.

THE FLORIST is well got up, and beautifully illustrated with a coloured plate of two geraniums, *Cen-*

*turion* and *Honora*. The first article is by Mr. Rivers, on Standard Climbing Roses, and is written in his usual racy style. He gives the names of some climbing roses, which, when budded on strong stems, make beautiful pendent trees, and which, after the first year, require very little trouble. The most interesting sorts are stated to be, *Banksiæflora*, with very double flowers, pure white, the centre of each bloom pale yellow or straw colour. *Felicité perpétuelle*, with flowers of a creamy white, tinted with pink on the outside. *Myrianthes*, with its abundance of flowers of the most delicate pink, is equally worthy of a place on the lawn, grass plot, or in a small garden. *Princess Marie* is nearly the deepest in colour, of this elegant group; its foliage is also darker, and its habit more robust than some others. *Rampant*, with its flowers of pearly white. This lovely variety is most slender and graceful in its habit, and continues a long time in bloom. We quite agree with the assertion, that no one can tell how beautiful all these roses are, as standards. They are nearly evergreen, and every season covered with their peculiarly neat and double flowers; and in two or three years, their pendulous branches, waving with every breeze, reach the ground. The *Rose Amadis*, or *Crimson Boursault*, is also described as quite unrivalled as a standard, being brilliant in the extreme. *Boursault gracilis*, with bright pink, and *Boursault inermis*, with bright red flowers, are also very fine. At the latter part of this interesting paper, Mr. Rivers gives a hint which accounts for the miserable growth and ultimate death of the yellow Persian rose, which is sadly complained of in this part of the country. He observes, "scarcely any suckers, those '*disturbers of the peace*' of the rosarium, ever make their appearance; the parent, *i.e.* the stock, is liberal, and the child (the rose worked upon it) is grateful, for the abundance of sap furnished by the stock is all absorbed by these vigorous growing roses." This conveys a useful lesson to rose growers;

and tells us that we ought not to hoist on the vigorous dog rose, slender and delicate growing varieties, that are quite incapable of taking up the sap furnished by the stock. The parent becomes fretful and impatient, innumerable suckers are the consequence, and the child soon dies of a surfeit (too much food, in the form of sap). We might, with as much congruity, make a lamb the foster-child of an elephant. We must close our extracts for the present, heartily welcoming the *Florist* to a prominent place amongst its compeers.

THE FLORIST'S JOURNAL, for May, contains a fine coloured engraving (with a description) of *Pleroma heteromallum*, a stove plant, and therefore not much in the way of many of our readers. The flowers, however, are dark blue, and as the plant blooms in the winter, it is desirable to those who have the means of cultivating such productions. The other articles are, on Suburban Gardens, Forcing the Genus *Dianthus*, Water and Watering, Descriptive List of New Plants, &c., with a portion of the Dictionary of Fruits and Vegetables. In the latter, we notice a description of some strawberries, of acknowledged superiority. Amongst new ones, likely to interest our readers, there is *Hooper's Seedling*, a large, handsome, highly-flavoured variety, a good bearer, and forces well; ripe from the middle to the end of June.

FLORICULTURAL CABINET.—This is illustrated with a coloured figure of *Plumbago Larpentæ*, from Shanghai, in China. Certainly a most beautiful thing, valuable alike for its adaption to greenhouse culture as well as the open border. The plant at Messrs. Knight and Perry's, in October last, was two feet high, two feet and a half across, and had more than six thousand flowers, forming one mass of beauty. The flowers are blue, with violet centre. There are Notes on New Plants, also on Florists'



Flowers, copied from Mr. Glenney's *Properties of Flowers*; Sketch of Mr. Fortune's Visit to China, in search of New Plants; Fancy Pelargoniums, &c. A good number.

MAUND'S BOTANIC GARDEN.—The figures in this number are the beautiful *Anemone Japonica* (elsewhere noticed). *Salvia pruneloides*, a pretty blue-flowering sage, growing about eighteen inches high; it requires light soil and a warm situation, being rather apt to damp off in winter. *Brodiaë congesta* (The Crowded Brodiaë), a very pretty hardy bulbous plant, rising about a foot in height, flowering in June and July; and though introduced many years ago, apparently has been lost to our collections, till lately. And the *Andromeda arborea*, a handsome hardy American tree, in its native country attaining the height of fifty feet, but with us seldom more than twenty. The other illustration is a coloured figure of the *Woodhill Apple*. It is a seedling, raised in the parish of Broomsgrove, and is very extensively cultivated in that neighbourhood, and alike valuable for culinary purposes or the dessert. It is described as an excellent sort for market, its size, colour, and quality rendering it very saleable.

### Part III.

## REVIEW.



COMPANION TO THE GARDENER'S ALMANACK, 1848.  
By G. W. Johnson. London: R. Baldwin, Paternoster-row.

THE subjects are well selected, and there are a great number of illustrations, rendering the matters treated of intelligible to the humblest capacity.

We give a short extract, relative to a beautiful plant, the *Crimson Glory Pea* (*Clianthus punices*):

"It is too generally treated as a plant of very tender habit. It is not so, but like most of the *New Zealand* plants, may be enabled to endure our climate most successfully, if grown against a south wall, and with the shelter of a mat during winter. If grown in the vicinity of the *Wistaria*, or *Glycine sinensis*, they may be so trained that the crimson blossoms of the *Clianthus* will contrast most agreeably with the azure racemes of its more commonly known companion."

Other subjects interesting to our readers are, Rotation of Crops, Leaves as Manure, the Cucumber—its Cultivation, Asparagus, Broccoli, &c. It is well got up, and doubtless will prove extensively useful.

## QUERIES.



In a floral and horticultural society where there are six auricle prizes allowed, six polyanthus ditto, six hyacinth ditto, six rose tulip ditto, six bybloemen tulip ditto, six bizarre tulip ditto, six self ranunculus ditto, six variegated ranunculus ditto, six pink ranunculus ditto, six rose ranunculus ditto, six carnation ditto, six picotee ditto, and a few stands of dahlias, and each prize is allowed *one part* of the funds; and for the horticultural department we have three prizes for leeks, three for broccoli, three for radishes (twelve in a dish), three for rhubarb, three for two cabbages, three for cherries (forty-eight in a dish), three for twenty-four strawberries, three for kidney potatoes (twelve in a dish) three for round ditto (ditto), three for the best lettuces (a couple together), three for peas (a quart shown), three for turnips (sixes), and so on, through the season, and these first horticultural prizes receive only *half a part*, and the second and third each a *quarter part*; is this enough, or is it too much in proportion? Thus when a prize flower, say a rose tulip or a carnation, receives a part (two shillings we shall say), the best twelve radishes will get half a part, or one shilling; and the second and third, each sixpence. What is your opinion of this? Please to give us your opinion in your next. I am anxious to know how such things are proportioned in other parts of the country.

*Rimside Moor.*

A LOVER OF FAIRPLAY.

Is there any better apricot than the Moorpark? and can they be grown as standard trees?

ALPHA.

Being a young tulip grower, I am at a loss to know what is meant by the term "breeder." I see in vol. 1, p. 9, of the *Midland Florist*—No. 1. *Surpasse le Grand*, being broken into colour in 1840, the breeder is unknown. No. 5. *Grand Sultan*, rectified in 1839, from No. 60 breeder. No. 7. *Grace Darling*, being sold out as Grace Darling breeder, without any number attached to it. No. 13, *Anastasia*, broke in 1840, from No. 10, a fine rose breeder. No. 14, *Maid of Orleans*, broken into colour in 1840, from No. 43 breeder, &c. &c. Now if you will be so good as to state what these breeders are, you will very much oblige me, and many others of your young readers also.

*Dumfermline, Fifeshire, Scotland.*

JAMES MELDRUM.

In this month's number of the *Midland Florist*, a notice of Zuill's Mary Lamb is inserted, which, whether from ignorance or a wish to detract from its merits, I think hardly just. It has been grown in several collections here, for the last three years; it has been shown at all the competitions during that period; at each, different judges were appointed, and in every instance Mary Lamb was placed first as a feathered prize. If "most beautiful as a bed flower," your readers may be assured it is equally so for competition.

*Falkirk, 10th January.*

A. B. C.

[The opinion expressed of Mary Lamb, is that of a very eminent Scotch florist, who grows the flower. It is very possible that Mary Lamb may have been put first; and from what we have heard of it, we suppose it to be very beautiful, but *not quite perfect in shape*. If it is, we shall be glad to give it all the publicity its merits deserve. A. B. C., however, must recollect, that such flowers as Dolittle and Duc de Savoy, both with *some* good properties, are yet allowed to win, in various parts of the country; but the fact of either of these flowers being put first in the class, at an exhibition, does not necessarily stamp them *first-rate*.]

**DANDELION.**—An article is advertised as dandelion coffee. If this be what it professes, is it prepared from wild or cultivated dandelion? Some time ago, I found three dandelion plants of extra size, on a compost heap. I had them dressed, along with some salsafy and scorzonera, and thought the dandelion the best vegetable of the three. Afterwards, I took some large plants from a field, and found them, on being cooked, very woody. I then transplanted a few into a bed of loamy soil, but they were not so good as those from the compost heap. What would be the best mode of cultivation? Would it not be needful to remove all flowers as they appeared? If a small quantity of dandelion tea be added to your congou, it gives a flavour resembling green tea. Make the infusions separate, and mix *ad libitum*.

AN AMATEUR.

Will any grower of prize gooseberries give, in the *Midland Florist*, an article on the culture of the gooseberry, expressly for prize fruit? J. S.

Will Mr. Staton, or any other florist, give an article on the required properties of the polyanthus, with the method of performing the operation of hybridizing that flower? T. F.

Can you, or any of your correspondents, give me the names of six of the best dark ranunculuses—I mean *the newest*, as I know my old favourite, *Naxara*, is unbeatable? I understand that Messrs. Tyso have been fortunate in originating many fine ones. A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE FIRST.

Can you tell me where I can buy a few of the best pansies, pinks, and carnations? I find some difficulty in obtaining them in my own neighbourhood. R. VERNON.

[If our correspondent will look to our advertising sheet, he will find the names of some of the best and most respectable florists of the day, in whom he may safely trust, and who, we are sure, will serve him well and liberally.]

What are the best half-dozen standard trees for a lawn? perhaps in your next number you will give me this information, and oblige yours, &c. A CURATE.

What is the best way to raise rose seeds? I have tried many times, and have not been able to succeed. Is there anything peculiar in their management, &c.? An early reply will oblige JANE M.—.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. B. S. asks for a list of azaleas, and also puts a query as to soil. They will not flourish in cold clayey, or stiff soils. Good sandy peat soil, and vegetable mould will grow them perfectly well. There are now an immense number of varieties of this beautiful and early-flowering shrub. We give the following twelve. The first four blossom early, and the whole are procurable at a moderate price.

*Azalea pontica*.—An old variety, with large yellow flowers.

*A. pontica alba*.—With white flowers.

*A. nudiflora*.—Early, pink flowers, smaller than the above, but very pretty.

*A. pontica tricolor*.—A mixture of orange, buff, and pink.

The following four varieties bloom rather later than the above:—

*Azalea aurantia major*.—A splendid orange-coloured variety.

*A. coccinea major*.—Fine scarlet.

*A. cuprea splendens*.—This has a bronzy tinge, and is very distinct and handsome.

*A. atro rubens nana*.—A dwarf and very pretty dark red variety. The four undermentioned are later in coming into blossom than any of the previously named :—

*Azalea viscosa*.—With red flowers.

*A. flavesceus rosea*.—A singular mixture of colours.

*A. rosea*.—Bright pink.

*A. Princess Amelia*.—Dark salmon colour.

G. A. P. should have adopted the system of pinching off the points of his ericas : this keeps them bushy and well balanced. If the branches are cut where the wood is bare of foliage, they will not emit shoots from that part. As the plants are large, the ends of the shoots had better be removed, which will in some degree counteract the nakedness he complains of.

J. RANSOME.

#### A SELECTION OF EARLY-FLOWERING HERBACEOUS PLANTS.—

NAME:	HEIGHT, INCHES.	COLOUR.
<i>Syssirinchium grandiflorum</i> ..	8	purple
<i>Fumaria nobilis</i> .. ..	12	yellow
<i>Fumaria alba</i> .. ..	4	white
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i> ..	2	pink
<i>Saxifraga alba</i> .. ..	2	white
<i>Saxifraga reticulata</i> ..	2	pale rose
<i>Alysson cerulea</i> .. ..	4	lilac
<i>Alysson alba</i> .. ..	6	white
<i>Orobis verna</i> .. ..	12	pink
<i>Epimedium grandiflorum</i>	6	white
<i>Epimedium violacea</i> ..	6	pinkish
<i>Hepaticas</i> , three sorts ..	4	red, white, and blue
<i>Pulmonaria virginica</i> ..	12	blue
<i>Adonis vernalis</i> .. ..	8	yellow
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> .. ..	6	blue
<i>Phlox verna cerulea</i> ..	6	blue
<i>Phlox verna</i> .. ..	4	pink
<i>Scillas</i> , three varieties ..	6	pink, blue, and white
<i>Jonquils</i> , in variety ..	12	yellow and orange
<i>White Mountain Ranunculus</i>	12	white
<i>Double Cardamine</i> .. ..	6	blue
<i>Cardamine alba</i> .. ..	6	white
<i>Campanula nitida</i> .. ..	8	blue
<i>Dens canis</i> .. ..	4	white and pink
<i>Double Primroses</i> , in variety	4	
<i>Gentiana verna cerulea</i> ..	4	purple

THOMAS GIBBONS.

**POMONA.**—The apple trees, which have been planted only a year, would not make much progress, and especially during such a summer as the past one. It will be very possible, if not pruned when they were removed, that many fruit buds will have been formed. I do not consider the cracks on the small branches material; but it should ever be borne in mind, that no trees do well when planted too deep, or below the collar, which is the part which swells, immediately above the ground.

**I. G. C.—HEPATICAS.**—There are some new varieties on the Continent; several of them, however, would not be thought sufficiently distinct by us. The principal sorts grown in this neighbourhood are—*The Single White*, seedlings vary in the colours of the anthers; *Single Blue*; *Single Red*; *Semi-double Purple*, or *Anemoneflora*; and the *Double Purple*. To these may be added, *Comtesse de Beaucarne*, pale pink; *Variegata*, single blue, mottled with white; and *Atropurpurea flore pleno*. The hepatica prefers a rather shady situation, though they grow well, when the roots are not often divided, in almost any soil.

Nottingham.

H. S. M.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR FEBRUARY.

**SPRING** is drawing on, and preparations must be made for sowing, planting, &c. We will begin our directions for the month with

**Florists' Flowers.**—Many florists grow their *polyanthuses* on beds. In this case, they are more exposed to the attacks of various insects, and the vicissitudes of the weather, than when in pots. It will be necessary to look out for *slugs*, which, on mild evenings, will be commencing active operations; and, on the principle that prevention is better than cure, will be better caught now than when the *polyanthuses* are in bloom. As for *auriculas*, being generally cultivated in frames, they are more easily protected; but damp, and drip through broken panes, if not immediately remedied, prove detrimental, and often destructive, to these hardy alpine plants. They are usually top-dressed at this season of the year, but Mr. Staton, at page 41 of our first volume, discountenances the system, and advises watering with liquid manure instead; his plan of making it, and the manner of its application, being there detailed. It will be requisite to attend to the cleanliness of the above plants; keeping both beds and pots free from weeds, and the surface of

the soil stirred ; though this must not be done so as to break the roots of the plants, for it must ever be borne in mind, that *no root is made in vain*. *Tulips* will be now fairly above ground, and consequently demand an extra share of the amateur's attention. To professed florists all this kind of thing is a mere matter of routine ; to the uninitiated we would say, hoop your beds over, let the centre of the hoops be at least three feet from the surface of the bed, and protect the rising plants, not only from severe frost, but also from heavy rains ; for at this time of the year, the latter is often succeeded by the former, and is thus doubly detrimental. The careful observer will soon detect any plants that may be cankered ; should this happen, the diseased foliage must be removed as soon as possible, or the existence of the bulb will be endangered.

*Pinks*, *carnations*, and *pansies*, in beds, should be carefully gone over, removing leaves which are often half drawn into the soil by worms, and which afford a secure retreat for several insects detrimental to these plants ; decayed or diseased leaves should also be carefully cut away, with a pair of sharp-pointed scissors, the surface of the beds stirred, and the plants fastened. When cultivated in pots, all the air possible should be given ; in fact, these plants suffer extremely from confinement. *Dahlias* should now be placed in a gentle heat, and the young shoots put in as cuttings.

In flower borders, many self-sown annuals, which have withstood the winter, may now be transplanted, at least towards the end of the month, should the weather prove favourable. These will generally prove stronger and bloom more abundantly than those which are spring sown. Such things as *larkspurs*, *Canterbury bells*, *lupines* (perennial), &c. may, if requisite, be parted and replanted. With regard to tender annuals, those who have a hotbed, or small greenhouse, may sow, in pots, *balsams* (of which there are now many beautiful varieties), *Martynia fragrans*, *Schizanthus retusus*, *Hookerii*. &c.

Flowering shrubs, such as *Ribes sanguinea* and its varieties, *syringas*, &c. will often get too large for small gardens. When this is the case, they must be well pruned, and the roots cut through with a sharp spade ; this will counteract their luxuriant growth, and at the same time induce a much more abundant crop of flowers. *Roses* should also be cut in, and the branches thinned. It is essential to know what class they belong to, as some require very different treatment to others ; for instance, the Hybrid Chinas do not require much shortening, for if cut down closely, they throw out very luxuriant shoots, and show little disposition to bloom. All sorts of *deciduous trees* and *shrubs*, *roses*, &c. may be removed with safety during this month.

Borders, for transplanting the various half hardy beautiful things which are now so extensively grown, should be got ready for the reception of *verbenas*, *salvias*, *geraniums*, *tropæolums*,

*heliotropes* (of which old favourite one or two new varieties have lately been introduced), &c. If the soil is heavy or tenacious, a small quantity of lime will be found serviceable. Leaf mould is a most excellent ingredient in flower beds, and a store of this should by all means be procured, to be applied as occasion may require.

### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

We do not write our calendar for those who have very large gardens. When we first started the *Midland Florist*, it was with the expressed intention of being useful to the amateur and small gardener. We hope some of our readers tried the *Auvergne Pea*, which we recommended in our last year's calendar. We would now tell them of two others, which, as *early peas*, we are sure will very much please them; we allude to Warner's Early Emperor and the Early Green Marrow, which are very productive and very good. These may be sown now. *Peas* are more apt to be taken by mice, early in the season, than when there is more food; we have found rubbing them with powdered rosin a great preservative against the depredations of these mischievous animals.

*Radishes*, for an early crop, may be sown in a sheltered situation, and the seeds protected by litter. The Early Short Top is one of the best sorts.

Force *sea kale* and *rhubarb*, by placing pots over the crowns, and covering with warm dung. If proper pots, with lids to them are not attainable, old tea chests, small flour barrels, or new chimney pots, are good substitutes. The *Victoria* is strong, and will require pots or boxes as large as the above; the *Linnaeus* (Myatt's) is nearly as large, and a fortnight earlier; but the *Pontic* is very early and very handsome. The *Tobolsk* also is very good.

*Beans* are a useful vegetable. Plant them in double rows, a foot wide, leaving at least three feet before another double row is planted. There will be more air for the *beans*, and they will consequently crop better; and trenches may be made between the rows, for *celery* or *Brussels sprouts*, to occupy the ground after the bean stalks are pulled.

*Lettuces*.—Autumn-sown, such as Bath Coss and the Hardy Green, may be planted out in well prepared borders. It is full early enough to sow seed, which unless protected, had better be deferred till next month.

Where requisite, such things as *spinach*, *mustard* and *cress*, &c. may be put in. It is also a good time, at the latter end of the month, to set out early *cabbage plants*, as a succession to those planted in autumn, &c.; but, of course, all these directions depend on the weather; from it being hitherto (Jan. 18) so comparatively mild, it is possible that we may have very severe weather in February.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## CULTURE OF THE SCARLET GERANIUM.

BY T. WILLIAMS, GARDENER TO H. SMITH, ESQ., WILFORD HOUSE, NOTTS.

THE best four varieties for pot culture are, *General Tom Thumb*, *Compactum*, *Britannia*, and *Doctor Maclean*. I consider four scarlets sufficient for a pan for exhibition, they being all selfs.

My mode of culture is as follows:—In September, short-jointed cuttings are put in to strike: when rooted, they are potted off, in thumb pots, using sifted soil for this potting; that portion of the soil that will not pass through the sieve being used for drainage. No crocks are used. The plants are stopped, if required, and kept as cool as possible through the winter. In April, they are repotted into quart pots; and if the plants are strong, the soil is shaken from the roots, which will cause the plants to grow short-jointed and bushy. The shoots are stopped whenever necessary, and the plants are not allowed to bloom this season. As soon as the weather is fit, they are placed out in a warm sunny situation, well supplied with moisture, and with manure water once a week.

In August, the plants are shaken out of the pots clean, that no old soil may remain about the roots, and are then potted in eleven-inch-deep pots, which I prefer for scarlets. The plants are placed near the bottom of the pots, the side branches resting on the rims, and the soil used at this potting is but just enough to cover the crown of the roots. I give but little water at this season of the year, and little more care is necessary till September, when I cut the plants down, and as soon as they begin to show their new

buds, I commence their season of rest, which cannot be too long for scarlets. However contrary this may appear to practice, nothing can surpass my plants, which are so treated. In March, the pots are filled to within an inch of the top, with poor chopped loamy soil, and the plants are grown rather quick.

I use the following soil:—Four parts loam, one-fourth part charcoal, one-fourth part silver sand, and one-half part leaf mould, well mixed.

Plants thus treated, are grown without any supports, close, covering the rims of the pots, well regulated, with the finest bloom, and rank amongst the best specimens of the present day. I know of no flower so universally admired, or so much sought after as the scarlet geranium. The two best sorts for bedding are *Tom Thumb* and *Frogmore*.



## ON THE HYACINTH.

BY MR. YEOMANS, OF GRANTHAM.

[A few years ago, Mr. Yeomans raised a quantity of seedling hyacinths. They bloomed most satisfactorily, and we have great pleasure in laying his system of cultivation before our readers.]

VERY few flowers are more worthy the attention of florists than the hyacinth, if we take into consideration the pleasing diversity of colour, elegance of form, and ease of cultivation. The following treatment has been found to answer in growing them, and also in raising seedlings:—The soil here is a light sandy loam, and the situation, open and airy, appears naturally suited to the hyacinth. The beds that are intended for the blooming bulbs are dug out to the depth of two feet, or one foot six inches, in September, and a layer of four inches of thoroughly decomposed cow, or vegetable manure, is put in. Turf ashes are an excellent ingredient with the manure, and some time previous to using, turn it over two or three times, and

sprinkle it with a small quantity of salt, with a little nitre intermixed. Fill up the beds with the soil previously taken out; if it be light and sandy, or open loam, allow the beds a day or two to settle, before planting; should the soil be a cold wet clay, the beds will require to be raised considerably above the paths, and the bulbs planting in sand, or what is better, the soil replacing with a light loam. The beds should be five feet wide, and the bulbs eight inches apart each way (a little wider would be all the better, if it do not bring them too near the path), and seven in a row, and the crown of the bulb should be covered with four inches of soil. For the blooming bed, choose only such bulbs as are plump in the crown, bright in skin, and not over large; for if they are, they generally send up too many flower stems, and not unfrequently divide into a great many small offsets, and do not bloom at all, which is a great disappointment. The large offsets that are intended for the blooming bed in the following year, should not be allowed to perfect all the blooms, the bells ought to be stripped off, with the exception of one or two at the top, that the bulb may not be exhausted, reserving as much as possible the strength for the proper season. The soil that they are planted in should not have any manure, for the healthier the bulbs are kept the better they bloom, and derive more benefit from the change. When they have done blooming, strip off all the bells of those you do not wish to save for seed; never cut the stems, for great injury is done to the bulb, more especially if it should be a large one, by the wet lodging in its centre causing mouldiness. When they are ripe, take them up and dry them in a shady situation; by no means expose them to the full influence of the sun, or serious loss will be experienced, they will become in a manner parboiled, and smell very disagreeably. Nothing contributes more to the successful cultivation of this flower than having the bulbs well harvested. Canvass or calico bags are best for storing them in, as paper does not admit sufficient air; close drawers are

very improper depositories; the best way is to hang them up, in a cool dry room, and scarcely any loss will be experienced.

The seed, when sufficiently ripe for gathering is black, and should be pulled, without regarding the moisture which remains in the pod, for if any of the seeds are not arrived at maturity, the pod will assist in bringing them to perfection; it is much better than leaving it so long on the stem, and preventing the bulb from being taken up. Strip the pods off and expose them to the full influence of the sun, where no wet can come on them; when they are thoroughly dried, they may then be put away, keeping the seed in them until the proper time of sowing, which is February or early in March.

[To be continued.]

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### CRACKING OF THE BARK ON FRUIT TREES, ETC.

IN answer to the inquiries of "Pomona" (page 46, v. 2), I beg leave to remark, that all fruit trees lose some portion of their roots by removal, and in accordance with the amount of loss, so is their power of growth diminished. Probably "Pomona's" apple trees lost a considerable portion of theirs, by transplanting. If such were the case, the balance would be against the roots, unless the heads were pruned, in order to restore the equilibrium. If pruning was omitted, the supply of sap, owing to loss of roots, would necessarily be deficient, as becomes evident by their making little progress in growth. This deficiency of sap would cause the bark to contract and crack by the heat of the sun's rays, as a deal board will crack by the heat of the sun, when all its moisture is evaporated. Again, the removal of the trees from a moist soil, to one of a drier nature (keeping the balance against the roots in view), would also tend to produce the same effect; unless the trees were mulched,

and supplied with moisture in dry weather. The soil, however, is not the cause; as the friable soil mentioned by "Pomona," is more conducive to the health of fruit trees, than soil of a retentive nature. If "Pomona" think the trees are planted too deep (deep planting being a great evil), I would advise him to relift them, prune the extremities of their roots, and cut away with a sharp knife any mutilated portion, and then carefully replant them; also, at the same time, to prune the heads well back, so as to give the balance in favour of the roots. By these means, and by keeping the roots moderately moist during the first summer, freedom of growth will be renewed. Such is the mode I have found successful in restoring young trees that had become stunted in growth. When a moderate freedom of growth is restored to the trees, I have humble confidence that the evil "Pomona" complains of, will cease.

HENRY WOOD.

*Colney House Gardens, St. Albans.*

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## THE MOST SUITABLE SITUATION FOR THE GROWTH OF THE POLYANTHUS.

BY THE CONDUCTOR.

We are assured that many admirers of the polyanthus are unsuccessful in its management, simply because they do not study the habits of the plant. It is next to impossible to grow it in a warm sunny situation; it may be done in early spring, but after blooming time it is extremely susceptible of drought, and exposure to a July sun lays it open to the attack of *red spiders*, which is often fatal to it. The habitat (or place of growth) of its near relation, will give some idea of the way it ought to be treated. The "*Pale-faced primrose*" affects sunny banks it is true, flower-

ing at a season when other vegetation has made but little progress ; but, we ask, who sees primroses after their blooms have passed away ? Sheltered and hidden from the summer heat by the rank vegetation which usually springs up around them, retiring as it were, beneath the friendly shade of briers and overhanging bushes, they escape the attacks of those maladies to which their tribe are subject, when exposed. This then, proves that polyanthuses may be grown in borders fully exposed to the sun, provided, after a certain period, they are artificially shaded. We have seen them grown and flowered, most beautifully, by simply having a moveable shade placed on the north side of the bed, in the winter and early spring months, and removed to the south side when the sun became too powerful. The best place in which we ever grew polyanthuses, and where they appeared to luxuriate, was at the foot of a low bank, running due north and south. The bank was crowned with a thick hedge, the subsoil being a strong retentive clay ; on the east, the border was overhung with plum and other fruit trees. As a matter of course, till the trees were in full foliage, the plants got the genial rays of the morning sun, which in their early growth, is so essentially necessary ; and when they most needed shelter and shade, those trees, thickly covered with foliage, gave them the requisite protection ; thus in a great measure imitating their natural habitat.

A suitable situation, is, we are convinced, "*half the battle*" in the successful cultivation of the polyanthus. Often has it been our lot to witness the vain attempts of people to grow them. They were unremitting in their attentions, their composts were after the most approved recipes, still all their trouble, care, and efforts, appeared to be attended with a sort of fatality ; for after the plants had flowered, they began to assume a sickly hue, and eventually became diseased and curled, arising from improper exposure to the sun, and the subsoil being of too porous a nature.

These details may appear uncalled for to our more practical floricultural friends, but we are certain that simplicity of description, joined to the *repudiation of all quackery*, will do more to create a taste for these "gaily-laced" spring flowers, than the most elaborate and highly coloured delineations can do.

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## CULTURE OF THE POTATO.

BY A LOVER OF A GOOD POTATO.

[Completed from page 6.]

IN again bringing the above subject before your readers, I will at once direct their attention to varieties which I consider best suited for general cultivation.

For *First Earlies*, I have found none to compare with the Aldbury Kidney, about which so many false ideas exist, as to which is the true variety; some parties alleging, that if true, they will not show bloom. This idea is now exploded, for they can be made, by a particular system of management, *both to bloom and bear seed*. I have seen this theory reduced to practice, and seedlings raised from the true Aldbury, but not one of which proved so early as the parent.

I would by no means discourage the cultivation of potatoes from seed, but would at the same time beg amateurs and new beginners not to feel disappointed, if their seedlings do not *all* turn out good ones; for I have paid a great share of attention to this department, but never was fortunate enough to raise a variety worth keeping. I would advise those who take delight in raising seedlings, to be very particular in the collection of the seed, and not gather it at random, as I have seen parties do; for it generally happens that many of the indifferent varieties of potatoes are the most productive in seed.

In adverting to the *second early* varieties, I would advise parties selecting, to choose those with short

tops (or haulms), abundant croppers, and with good table properties. In endeavouring to find these good qualities combined in one sort, I have planted with my own hands, more than three hundred varieties, not including seedlings. In 1845, I planted fifty-four distinct sorts, and the best I have been able to meet with in this class, are Thoresby Seedling, Early Strawberry, Royal Forester, Prince Regent, Forty-fold, Rilott's Flour-ball, and Tinley's Early (a superior variety); and for sandy situations, the old London Screw, which, although grown fifty years ago, will still take some beating out of the field. Others that I tried experiments with, are Ready-penny, Fox's Seedling, Cockney, Purple Prince, Scarlet Prince, Golden Ball, Champion, American Native, Knapsack, Libby, Lemon Ox Noble, Early Red, Bruton Dwarf, Farmer's Glory, Scotch Block, and White Blossom. These will many of them do well on some soils, but not generally. The results of my experiments have led me to the conclusion, that one variety will suit one soil and another variety another; but I am of opinion, that by a rigid perseverance in draining and improving land, this may be greatly modified. For instance, a friend of mine had a piece of land that lay very low, and consequently was wet; he complained that he could not grow potatoes on it that were fit to eat, and therefore he generally cropped it with oats, for his pig, &c. I advised him to try the Irish method of planting, or, as it is generally called, the *lazy-bed* system, viz. to dig it deep and rough, before the winter, and give it a good dressing of lime; but lime, in his neighbourhood, was dear, and he did not use it very plentifully. In spring, I directed him to draw a straight line, and rake as for a bed, about forty inches wide, and on this place his manure sparingly; then two rows of potatoes, the whole length, twenty-two inches apart, leaving nine inches outside each row; to dig a trench, fourteen inches wide, along the side of the line, spreading the soil thrown out equally over the potatoes; then



to pursue the same system with the other side of the bed; and so on, as far as he thought proper, having the alleys or trenches betwixt every two rows, twenty or twenty-two inches deep; and as the potatoes grew, to draw a little earth to the rows from the middle of the bed, and for the outside, to use some from the trenches. This plan he carried out to the letter, and he said he never saw a better crop, or eat better flavoured potatoes. His neighbours derided the plan—but facts are stubborn things. They tried this *foolish plan*, as they called it, the following season, with equal success; and should any of your numerous readers possess land similar to the above, I would say to them, if they have no better means of draining it, *go and do likewise*.

In later kinds, the varieties I would recommend for general culture, are the Irish Cup, or, as they are generally called, Irish Apples. Some parties say these are synonymous, but they are two distinct varieties, and sold in Dublin, the latter 2s. 6d. to 3s. per cwt. above the former. They are first-rate in quality, but shy croppers. The Short-top Red, Wansford Blue, Breadfruit, and Violet Eye, will be found good, where the soil suits them. The Irish Repealer is a very mealy variety and a good cropper generally, but very susceptible of decay. Parties who like them, may also grow the Farmer's Profit and Belper Dun. These are very good croppers, the former particularly so, but they are very coarse-eating varieties.

I would recommend the early varieties to be planted three inches deep, twenty-four inches from row to row, and twelve inches in the row; and the later sorts five inches deep, thirty inches, and fourteen inches; unless it be on very heavy wet land, and in that case, I would say three inches for them also, and in earthing, draw more soil to them. The cutting of potatoes is too often done at random; but if any one wish to grow fine samples, I would recommend him to be careful in this particular, and to cut them with no

more than two good eyes. If planted whole, several of the eyes should be picked out.

Should the foregoing be of any service to the readers of the *Midland Florist*, I shall be repaid.

January, 1848.

## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF POTENTILLAS.

### WITH A FEW REMARKS ON THEIR CULTIVATION.

BY B. W. KNIGHT, TIVOLI, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

IN answer to the inquiry of "A Subscriber," I beg to recommend the following potentillas:—

*Americana*.—Bright yellow, bushy habit; height 1 foot.

*Atrosanguinea*.—Dark crimson, a fine showy variety; 2 feet.

*Atrosanguinea marginata*.—Somewhat similar to the above, but an improvement on it; 2 feet.

*Brilliant*.—Very rich scarlet, large and fine; 2 feet.

*Formosa*.—Fine large rich red; 2 feet.

*Garneriana*.—Large sulphur yellow, with a deep red mark in each petal, very splendid; 1½ foot.

*Hopwoodiana*.—A fine large shaded variety, rose, red, and white; 2 feet.

*Hybrida*.—A pretty shaded rose, dwarf bushy habit; 18 inches.

*Insignis*.—Fine large deep yellow; 18 inches.

*Laciniata*.—Yellow; 1 foot.

*Mac Nabiana*.—A splendid variety, of a rich scarlet crimson colour; 2 feet.

*Nepalensis*.—A pretty shaded rose; 18 inches.

*Russelliana*.—Large rich crimson; 2 feet.

*Thomasii*.—Large yellow; 2 feet.

*Tormentilla reptans pleno*.—Large rich yellow, very double, a creeping variety; 6 inches.

*Bainesiana* and *Menziesia*, are two new varieties, which I have not yet seen in flower, but they are said to be superb, and of very fine and distinct colours.

*Tonguii*.—This is a prostrate variety, blooming very profusely. The flowers are buff, with a red spot at the base of each petal. Well adapted for the front of flower borders, rock-work, or masses.

*Fintlemannii*.—A Continental variety, of robust habit, the flowers of a vivid crimson, very striking, and beautiful.

*Atrosanguinea flore pleno*.—Raised from seed by Messrs. Pope, of Birmingham. A semi-double dark crimson.

*Magnifica*.—The darkest and best shaped variety I have yet seen.

*Maculata*.—A finely-shaped flower, with a yellow ground, covered with small blood-coloured spots.

*Pedata*.—Rather erect in growth, the leaves also more slender than the preceding. The flowers a brilliant gold colour.

Potentillas make a fine show in the flower border, as single plants; in which situation they should be neatly tied up to supports, as they show their flowers to much greater advantage when tied up than when left to trail on the ground. They are also well adapted for planting out in separate beds, by themselves, and being allowed to grow one amongst another. In this situation they make a splendid show nearly the whole of the summer; and their beauty will be greatly increased by a judicious mixture of their colours, which can be easily obtained by not planting two of one colour together.

They will grow in almost any soil, but they delight most in that which is light, rich, and well drained; in such a soil they will grow luxuriantly and flower profusely.

They are easily propagated, either by seed or division of the old roots. The seed is best sown in June or July, in a light rich border, shaded from the mid-day sun. Seed sown at the above time, will make good plants for planting out in the borders, in the autumn or spring following. The old plants are best divided the beginning of October or early in February, when every shoot, if taken off with a portion of the root to it, will make a plant, and these may be set in the situation in which they are required to grow.



## THE YELLOW PERSIAN ROSE.

THIS is said to be a very beautiful variety, blooming most profusely. I am sorry to say, that with every care bestowed on plants received from various nurserymen, I have been unable to make it flower satisfactorily, or even to keep it alive.

I have had plants worked at various heights, from two feet to six, and the end of all has been similar—*death*. True, the heads, when I received them, appeared vigorous and healthy; and I cannot account for it in any other way, except that they had been budded on stocks of too vigorous a nature. Instead of the common Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), I would recommend the sub-variety (*Rosa collina*), as being smaller in its growth, and less liable to surfeit the graft or bud of Yellow Persian than the Dog Rose. I also fancy the old garden rose, known as the Cinnamon (*Rosa cinnamomea*), might prove suitable, or possibly, by double working, as in the case of some pears, might succeed. For instance, the Red and Yellow Austrian might be budded first, and when this had grown a season, bud the Yellow Persian on it. The bud would thus have a more congenial stock than if it were inserted in the rough, vigorous, sap-producing Dog Rose. It would also be advisable to have it on its own roots; it would then make a most beautiful dwarf bush, and if anything like so hardy or so floriferous as its relatives, the Roses Harrisonii and Smithii, it will prove invaluable.

H. S. M.

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As a guide to those amateurs who prefer pruning their own fruit trees, Mr. R. Errington gives the following as examples of the two classes which bear fruit chiefly on the spur:—First. *The apricot, the red and white currant, and the plum*. Second. Fruits bearing chiefly on the young wood. *The gooseberry, the vine, the black currant, and the raspberry*.—The same gentleman states, that the finest Keen's Seedlings he ever saw, were four feet apart between the rows, and three feet between each plant. Each plant formed a huge isolated mound; and the quantity and size of the fruit were indeed most extraordinary.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.—◆—  
FRUITS.

**STRAWBERRY.—JAMINS ANGELIQUE.**—A Continental variety, raised from Keen's Seedling. The fruit is large, and even more prolific than the parent.

A new strawberry has also been lately originated in America, a cross between Hovey's Seedling and Burr's Seedling. It is called the *Ohio Mammoth*; and described as being very large, shape rather long and conical, colour light red, flavour sweet and excellent.

—◆—  
FLOWERS.

## VERBENAS.

**CHAMPION (Barker).**—This is good in form, colour deep red, with a darker centre.

**BARONNE DE SERMET.**—An attractive variety, crimson, with the petals slightly tipped with white, the centre also being white.

**EMPRESS OF SCARLETS (Barker).**—Very beautiful and bright. It is well adapted for bedding out, being of a dwarf and compact habit.

## FANCY DAHLIAS.

These are very much improved in that grand essential, *shape*. We subjoin the names of six fine new varieties:—

**ŒILLET PARFAIT.**—A very striking variety, striped most beautifully with crimson, on yellow; good shape.

**DEJAZET (Mignet).**—This is also beautifully striped, deep violet and white ; fine shape.

**EMPEREUR DE MAROC.**—Very dark crimson, distinctly tipped with pure white, a great improvement on *Roi des Points* ; it is also very constant and fine.

**JENNY LIND (Girling).**—This is a tip, and a very pretty one ; the colour deep crimson, with white spots. It has gained several first-class certificates.

**FLORENCE DOMBEY (Salter).**—A beautiful yellow, distinctly tipped with pure white.

**REMEMBRANCER (Girling).**—Light scarlet, with white tips very constant and good.

### FUCHSIAS.

**FLAVESCENS (Milliez).**—This is a very decided novelty ; the corolla and interior of the flower is scarlet, the tube and sepals being primrose, edged with green.

**ROI DE ROME (raised by M. Milliez).**—Very beautiful, and superior to *Napoleon*, originated by the same gentleman. The tube is pure white, and the corolla a fine and brilliant scarlet.



### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

WE have noticed in our last volume several new varieties of carnations and picotees : on the authority of the *Florist*, we now add to them several others, which we think will be likely to suit "*the Midlands*."

#### PICOTEES.

**MAY'S OLIVIA.**—This is a fine variety in a rather scarce class. The ground colour is pure, with a heavy and rich margin of purple.

**MAY'S SEBASTIAN.**—Heavy-edged red, of fine form ; the petals are stout, and the white good.

## CARNATIONS.

MAY's CALIBAN.—Crimson bizarre, of fine form, and the colour well laid on; said to be one of the best of its class.

MAY's LORENZO.—A rather pale-coloured rose flake. It is a finely formed flower, and most beautifully marked.

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## T R E E S.

THE JAPANESE CYPRESS. (*Cryptomeria Japonica*).—The conifera, or pine tribe, are now receiving a great share of attention from all planters of ornamental trees. The beautiful plant named above we would strongly recommend as a most graceful and elegant evergreen tree, a fit companion for the *Cedrus Deodara* and *Araucaria imbricata*, previously alluded to in this work. The *Cryptomeria* is perfectly hardy, and would make a very suitable tree for cemeteries.

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## VEGETABLES.

THE CHALMORE KIDNEY POTATO.—Amongst the many new varieties lately originated, this sort will hold a prominent position. We have to acknowledge the kindness of Messrs. Tyso, in sending us a few. The sample was beautiful: smooth, with very shallow eyes. When boiled, or roasted, they were very mealy, and of excellent flavour. The skin is extremely thin, and the plant is very prolific, producing abundantly. It cannot be too strongly recommended.

HECKFIELD COSS LETTUCE.—An improvement on the Bath Coss. It does not require tying, and is remarkably crisp and sweet.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



WE are glad to hear that our brother florists in Scotland are making rapid advances. The national character is that of *perseverance*, a quality of the utmost importance in the composition of a good florist. We find that the Chellaston tulips are generally liked in that quarter, and admitting that there are many inferior specimens amongst them (a result to be expected amongst such a number), still we trust that they may have "*a clear stage and no favour*," and be pitted against those of Messrs. Reid and Zuill. How far our information may be correct, we know not; but we should be glad to hear from Mr. Lightbody, of Falkirk, or some other eminent florist, whether this description of Mr. Reid's seedlings is correct:— "They are of peculiar habit, generally long cupped, with thin petals, narrow in the base, *very pure, and most beautifully marked*." We trust some of our friends "*ayont the border*" will forward us a few blooms next season, especially if we have not the gratification of visiting that quarter ourselves.

As far as we can recollect, THACKERAY'S QUEEN CATHERINE was a *sweet feathered rose*, certainly the gem of the class, on the bed of that enthusiastic and lamented amateur. The bloom had, however, been kept tied close up, so that our impression at the time was, that the form was not quite so good as it might have been.

PEARSON'S TYRIAN PINK.—As a beautiful rose-leaved pink, this stood very forward, twenty years ago. We do not know whether it was grown much out of this locality, and, in fact, we have lost sight of it for some years. Its only drawback was deficiency



in point of size ; but we should say, if obtainable, it should be grown, for the chance of procuring seed. It was remarkably steady in its lacing, which was very rich and dark, and the white like ivory.

**EASOM'S ADMIRAL CURZON SCARLET BIZARRE CARNATION.**—This flower was raised from a seed pod of Walmsley's William IV. and possesses in a remarkable degree the bold rich marking of the parent, with a much clearer ground. It is a mistaken notion that it was raised from Paul Pry crimson bizarre, as our correspondent at Liverpool asserts.

### SELECT CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

WE have to thank Messrs. Chandler, of Vauxhall, for the following selection of thirty chrysanthemums, as being the best, for shape, colour, &c. Messrs. Chandler have been growers and dealers in this beautiful autumnal flower for many years, and we are sure their opinion may be safely relied on, by those of our readers who have applied to us on the subject.

*Annie Salter.*—Pale yellow.  
*Aristides.*—Orange and brown.  
*Campestroni.*—Purple.  
*Celestial.*—Blush.  
*Compte de Rantzeau.*—Crimson  
*Duchess d'Aumale.*—White.  
*Emilie Lebois.*—Rose.  
*Fleur de Marie.*—Pure white.  
*Formosum.*—White and yellow.  
*General Rochembeau.*—Rosy  
 claret.  
*Hardy.*—Blush white.  
*Invincible.*—Creamy white.  
*King of Crimson.*  
*Lady Hunloke.*—Pale yellow.  
*L'Ange Gardien.*—Pure white.  
*Louis Philippe.*—Purplish lilac

*Madame Poggi.*—Crimson ma-  
 rone.  
*Minerva.*—Pink and white.  
*Nancy de Sermet.*—Pure white.  
*Orlando.*—Orange and buff.  
*Pluton.*—Dark brown cinna-  
 mon.  
*Poniatowski.*—Fine dark red.  
*Princess Marie.*—Light pink.  
*Queen of Gipsies.*—Orange.  
*Queen Victoria.*—Lilac.  
*Queen of Yellows.*  
*Satyr.*—Yellow and buff.  
*Temple de Solomon.*—Fine yel-  
 low.  
*Vulcan.*—Dark crimson.  
*Zoe.*—Rosy blush.

## DOUBLE STOCKS.

A NEW way of procuring these appears to be indicated in the *Midland Florist*, for January, and will, at any rate, prove an inducement to observation—for we shall want to know if such opposing pods really are produced; and if so, by what agency; as well as to note their effect in bearing double flowers. I forget how many years it is since I, one day, took a walk to a market garden, to inquire for double stocks. I soon found I had engaged in a pursuit I did not understand; not having been aware that there was any difficulty in getting double stocks, nor that there were annual and biennial ones; but my neighbours had got some double stocks, and I admired them, and naturally wished to have some. The gardener gave an explanation, which I fear rather confused than enlightened me: however, I purchased some plants, and a little seed, receiving a strict injunction to sow the latter “*at t' increase o' t' moooin!*” Some time after, I saw a paper on stocks (I think in the *Cabinet*), which directed the seed to be saved from those flowers only which had more than five petals; and at last I began to grow Brompton Stocks somewhat systematically—sowing the seed in autumn, pricking out the plants under a north wall, to stand the winter, and removing them to an elevated border, facing the south-east, in spring. I generally found flowers with from five to seven petals, among the single ones, from which I obtained plenty of double ones, destroying those flowers on the spike which had fewer petals. But I was told that it was just as easy to get double stocks from the seed of any flower, if attention were paid to dwarfing or checking the plant, by repeatedly shifting and putting it in poor soil. I have also seen people tie their single stocks to double ones, with a firm persuasion that they would thus secure double blooms, which seems impossible. It is very likely, however, that some varieties of stocks do produce more or less double flowers than others. Can the

colour have any influence? A nurseryman near me seems to think so. He sowed last year a quantity of German Ten-week; in some of the colours he had no double, in others no single flowers. I recollect that I once found a peach bloom-coloured stock, in a bed of seedlings, with a rich scent, but all the flowers quite single; however, I saved some of the seed, which again bore flowers entirely single. I have been told that the Purple Russian Stocks are commonly double. The Scarlet Intermediate are frequently so, but mine were all single this year; and the party who gave them to me tells me that his own were so, and that it was a bad year for stocks. However, I find that the seed hereabouts was all procured from one seedsman. Were double stocks scarce at Nottingham, last year? I recollect seeing some fine double Bromptons, in a village some ten miles off. They were in many cottage gardens; and I found, on inquiry, that one man, a market gardener, in the place, had supplied the plants, and that he was noted for growing double stocks.

What was the origin of the Intermediate Stock?

I fancy the age of the seed might affect the flowers. I generally sowed the oldest seed I had, as long as it would grow.

Stocks seem to require light and air as much as most things at all hardy. In Lancashire, I have seen holes or pits sunk in the ground, with a cover of rough boards, for polyanthus and auricula plants, and I am told they answer; but should fear that stocks would damp off in such a place.

I fancy that a cracked or broken bell-glass, hand-light, &c. or a whole one tilted, would protect them in any aspect; or perhaps such a frame as we sometimes see, with a few broken panes, turned to the north, would answer for stocks in pots, plunged to the rim in ashes. I found it no sinecure to keep late-sown seedlings, in a cold frame, from damping.

Hares and rabbits are fond of stocks. It will be difficult to keep any where these animals can procure admittance.

I have lately noticed some stocks sown in August, and pricked out under a south wall; they grew very well at first, but are not looking very well now (Jan. 17). They seem to have grown too grossly, and I cannot help thinking that a north border, where they would have been kept from alternate frost and snow, would have been far better.

EBOR.

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### PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

THERE seems to exist such a variety of opinions, both by writers on gardening and by persons with whom I occasionally converse, on the mode of pruning fruit trees, as to render it next to impossible to arrive at anything like a satisfactory system. I am a complete novice in gardening, and until lately, never read a line treating upon the subject. I have, however, now read *Cobbett's English Gardener*, *M'Intosh's Orchard and Fruit Garden*, your own work (*The Midland Florist*), and several others. From these I cannot gather any fixed system or principle for pruning—some advising one way, some another—and the instructions that are given are not sufficiently clear to be understood.

Any book written for the instruction of others, should point out every particular and minutiae of that which it professes to teach, and not take it for granted that the persons for whom it was written are partially learned or skilled in the art or science which the book treats of. This is an error that particularly shows itself in books on gardening.

I am now about to speak of pruning the currant and gooseberry trees. Cobbett's instructions are (if I understand him rightly) simply these: that the main branches are to be kept constantly clear of side shoots, "*by cutting off, every winter, the last summer's wood, within one bud or so of the limb*"; and when the limbs have attained their proper length, the shoot at the end of each limb should also be annually cut off, so that the tree, when it has received its pruning,

consists of a certain number of limbs, looking like so many rugged sticks, with bunches of spurs sticking out of them."

If I understand Cobbett's system of pruning, there are the six following rules or operations to attend to :

1. The *inside* of the tree is to be kept moderately clear of wood of *any sort*, which must be cut out for that purpose.

2. If the wood is considered as being too close or crowded, in any other part of the tree, part of it must be cut away, so as to leave it more open.

3. All decayed or dead branches to be cut out.

4. All branches that cross one another to be also cut out.

5. All suckers to be cut close to the ground.

6. Prune the remainder of the tree by cutting the last year's wood down to the last bud upon it,\* or at most leaving not more than two buds.

Cobbett makes no distinction between gooseberries and currants, but says they are "propagated, planted out, trained, and *pruned*, in precisely the same manner."

If the art of pruning trees was divided into rules, similar to the above, it would be much more clearly understood than by writing them in continuous sentences; and would be still more clear by a drawing of the tree, showing by dotted lines, or otherwise, the wood that ought to be cut away.

In the *Midland Florist*, there is no article upon pruning written by yourself. I wish I could prevail upon you to give a plain matter of fact description of pruning the *gooseberry, currant, apple, plum, and pear trees*; that is, if the system so far differs for each tree as to require a separate lesson; but if the pruning is alike in all those kinds of trees, one description will suffice: and please to bear in mind, that in imparting this knowledge, you are not doing so to a *gardener*, but to a person totally ignorant of the subject.

As this will require some trouble and sacrifice of your time, I shall be most happy to forward to you any fee that you may require for complying with my request.

E. W.

Nottingham, January, 1848.

\* This means the last bud nearest to the limb.

## GRAFTING.

For small gardens, apples grafted on the Paradise Stock are best. This variety makes a multiplicity of fibres, the trees are consequently dwarf, and very productive.

The quince is also used as a stock on which to graft the pear, with the same object in view; whilst latterly, on the Continent, and in this country also, cherries are grafted on the *Cerasus Mahaleb* (The Mahaleb Cherry), in order to obtain fertile dwarf bushes. The following varieties are said by Mr. Rivers to be of rather close and compact habit, and well adapted for miniature orchards, or growing where space is an object:—

Archduke.	Carnation.	Late Duke.
Bauman's May.	Carnation (Coe's	Louis Philippe.
Belle de Choisy	late).	Mayduke.
Belle de Sceaux	Corone.	Morello.
Buttner's October	Cerise Indulle.	Reine Hortense.
Morella.	Kentish.	Royal Duke.

The common sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) is now the subject of experiment, in order to obtain plum trees of small size; the Greengage and other varieties having been successfully grafted on it.

Dr. Bretonneau, of Tours, in France, has used the following as stocks:—The Georgian Almond (*Amygdalus Georgica*), the Dwarf Almond (*Amygdalus nana*), and the *Prunus incana*, all plants of small dimensions, and suitable for the purpose before mentioned. He has also worked or grafted the *Cotoneaster affinis* with pears, and which he asserts is a preferable stock to the quince. To obtain young plants, he sows the seeds immediately they are ripe, and also propagates extensively by layers and cuttings. The roots of this plant are extremely fibrous, and it appears to flourish well in very dry situations.

We should be happy to hear from any of our readers who may have experimented in these matters, as it cannot but prove highly interesting to those who are desirous of making the most of their space.

## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



MAUND'S BOTANIC GARDEN (February.)—The embellishments for this month are good. We have the pretty *Cuphea strigillosa* (The Coarse-haired Cuphea), a plant peculiarly adapted for bedding out. The *Campanula elatines* (Elatine Bell-flower) a neat and interesting plant for rock-work. The *Pæonia Reevesii*, a beautiful hardy pæonia, well deserving extensive cultivation. Under this head is a descriptive list of eleven varieties, all easily attainable. A hint is also given, worth the price of the book, namely, "*that most of the double flowering pæonies will produce seed, if fertilized by pollen from single ones.*" We trust our readers will bear this in mind, and try the experiment. *Cratægus Oliveriana* (Oliver's Hawthorn), a pretty variety of the common hawthorn, the haws or berries being also black.

THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE (38th part, for February.)—The first article is on the formation and planting of lawns and shrubberies; and in it is a very interesting list of shrubs adapted for the above purpose. They are classed under various heads:—thus we have evergreen plants, with large and conspicuous foliage, as the *Berberis aquifolia* (The Holly-leaved Barberry), &c.; plants with small or elegant foliage, as the *Berberis dulcis* (The Sweet-fruited Barberry); plants with variegated foliage, as the *Aucuba Japonica* (Japan aucuba), &c.; plants with fragrant foliage, as the *Artemisia abrotanum* (Southern Wood), &c.; plants flowering in early spring, as *Berberis nervosa* (Nerve-leaved Barberry), &c.; plants flowering late in autumn, as the *Arbutus unedo* (The Strawberry Tree), &c. From this it will be seen that the reader can make a selection of plants most suitable for his garden or lawn. An article on hybridizing, or cross-breeding plants, will be read with interest. We are sorry that we have not room for further

extract than the following observation:—"Colour in flowers seems generally to be most influenced by the male parent, and a cross between a rose and byblœmen tulip, and a bizarre, will usually produce *tricolors*." There is also an article on the *Camellia Japonica*, by Mr. Glenny; consisting of instructions for inarching, grafting, striking cuttings, &c., with a list of new plants recently introduced.

THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL has a plate of a beautiful phlox, termed *Leopoldina*; it has been originated on the Continent, and belongs to the *Drummondii* section. The principal articles are, on Early-flowering Bulbs. Potting Carnations. On Polyanthuses; a list of six is given, as a commencement;—*Fletcher's Defiance*, a good old flower certainly, in some respects, but the lacing is apt to fade. *Clegg's Lord Crewe*. This ought to be *Lakin's Lord Crewe*. Its principal defect is, the centre is too large in proportion to the body-colour. *Collier's Princess Royal* is described as unexceptionable; the flowers being circular and flat. It will often, however, come with six segments in the corolla, which gives it a frilled appearance; but when right, it is certainly fine. *Buck's George IV*. With this description we quite agree, considering it one of the best that is grown. *Stead's Telegraph* is not now grown much in this neighbourhood; and what we recollect of it is not greatly to its advantage, in comparison with many others out. *Mitchell's Lord Nelson* we do not know; it is said to be better than *Pearson's Alexander*. We have also a Descriptive List of New Plants. On the Culture of *Triptilion spinosa*. And Hints on the Classification of Roses. The number is certainly a most interesting one.

THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.—Chrysanthemums are now much in fashion, and two fine varieties are figured in this month's (February) number. They are *King of Crimson*s and *Nancy de Sermet*, two striking and beautiful varieties. The principal articles are, Culture of the Dahlia. Polmaise Heating. The Heartsease. Notes on New Plants. On Florists'



**Flowers.** From which we shall extract, for the benefit of our readers, Mr. Harrison's opinion on some of the best geraniums exhibited in London last season :—

*Avenger* (Thurtell).—Delicate blush, with deeper veins ; upper petals with a large dark spot, surrounded with a narrow margin of ruby ; large and fine form.

*Brilliant* (Topping).—Bright reddish scarlet, upper petals small dark spot, large size, blooms flat, and the petals are well rounded, only rather thin.

*Cavalier* (Beck).—Rich red, upper petals with a dark cloud, laced with reddish scarlet, moderate size, and very good form.

*Centurion* (Beck).—Rose, lighter in the centre, with a dark spot on each, upper petals large dark spot, good shape, and very handsome.

*Champion of Devon* (Topping).—Immensely large, rosy blush, slightly veined, upper petals with dark spot, surrounded with rosy pink.

THE FLORIST has a beautiful plate of a new seedling *Correa*, raised by Mr. Gaines ; it is called *Brilliant*, and appears to have much better foliage than the generality of its tribe. The *Correas* are evergreen greenhouse shrubs, and are tolerably hardy, blooming in the winter months. Mr. Gaines grows his successfully in leaf mould, peat, and very rich sandy loam. The principal subjects are a continuation of the article on the Cultivation of the Pansy, by Mr. Turner, of Chalvey. Amongst other hints, he observes, "*Never shade the entire bed with canvass or other material (when in flower). It would bring one fine head of bloom for a week or so, but from that time, the blooms would degenerate in size, with drawn up plants.*" Points of Perfection in Pansies, with diagrams. Roses in Pots, by J. Dobson. Speaking of hybrid perpetual roses, he observes, in the list given, that "*few of them throw a head of flowers in the autumn, unless they are put into a house, as the wet and early frosts injure the buds, and cause them to drop off before they expand.*" *This is in the neighbourhood of London.* The list consists of most of the old favourites, and contains such flowers as *Crimson Perpetual*, *Dr. Marx*, *Duchess*

of *Sutherland, Madame Laffay, Mrs. Elliott, &c.* We are rather surprised at the above assertion, as it might lead many who are anxious to cultivate these beautiful autumnal roses, to forego their intention, under the impression that they should be disappointed. *We find no difficulty in obtaining an abundant bloom of the roses just quoted, so far north as Nottingham, flowering (as they do) even up to November.* Management of the Auricula, by Mr. J. Neville. Descriptive List of Pansies. Mr. Rivers, on Christmas Roses (roses blooming at Christmas). He observes, "no thing can be more simple than their management. Towards the end of May, young plants from small pots, should be shifted into thirty-twos, or thirty-six-inch pots, in good compost, of two-thirds loam and one-third rotten manure, or decayed leaves, and plunged in saw-dust, or old tan, in the open ground, fully exposed to sun and air. They may be allowed to bloom freely all June and July, but in August and September, every blossom bud should be pinched off. This will make the plants stout and very robust, and towards the end of October, an abundant crop of incipient flower buds will be apparent. The plants may then be removed to a light and airy glazed pit, or greenhouse, and placed as near the glass as possible. No fire-heat, unless frost is very severe, should be employed, and abundance of air (they cannot have too much) should be given. It will also be better to place the pots on slates, or on a layer of sand, rather than on a dry wooden shelf." The above treatment applies to the hybrid perpetual and Bourbon roses. One of the latter, *Gloire de Rosamene*, though not very double, yet from its brilliancy and inclination to bloom late in the season, appears peculiarly adapted to produce "*roses at Christmas.*" The Calceolaria, by M. W. It is here stated that the grand secret in growing calceolarias is, "*to keep as little fire heat as possible; and during the summer months, to supply them liberally with water, and keep them well shaded from the scorching rays of the sun.*" A List of the

best Carnations and Picotees, which have been exhibited at the different shows during the past season. The majority of these we have described in the *Midland Florist*. It is a very useful list. Culture of the Polyanthus, in Pots, by J. Neville. On the Treatment and Culture of the Antirrhinum. Concluding with a List of Fifty First-rate Carnations, Fifty Picotees, and Fifty Pansies, collected and arranged by Mr. Edwards, of Holloway. Amongst the carnations, we find that *north country flowers* have the preponderance; whilst in picotees, *south and south-west* have the advantage. We think our northern florists should patronize the pink and purple bizarre carnations; they are delicate-looking certainly, but some of them are very beautiful.

### Part III.

### OBITUARY.



THE floricultural world has sustained a severe loss in one of the most ardent and enthusiastic of its votaries, by the death of CHARLES BARON, Esq. of Saffron Walden, in Essex. He died on the 3rd of January, about 72 years of age. He was one of those who linked the old race of florists with the new; and, together with his friend, the late Mr. Strong, stood eminent with both. He was remarkable for his good taste and correct judgment, and as a censor most valuable, as the Cambridge Horticultural Society bore testimony to, by presenting him with their medal, in that capacity. The tulips he has left behind are of a very high order; not only was his bed known for its genuineness, but his breeders are of a choice description, and more than one of his newly broke flowers of last season were first-rate. Hollyhocks he assiduously cultivated for twenty years, and his collection of them is of surpassing beauty. Heartsease and other flowers followed in their train, and he had some striking novelties. He came amongst us for the first time, last year, in search of the finer flowers, and intended to proceed to the north, but increasing weakness obliged him to return abruptly. This respectable gentleman was followed to the tomb by the whole of the corporation, of which he was a member, and numerous other inhabitants of the town.

We have also to record the decease of our old and respected friend, MR. BANTON, of Teigh, near Rutland, which took place on the 17th of January last. He was, in the fullest sense of the words, "a man of honour," kind hearted, and an enthusiastic florist.

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## QUERIES.



Would you, or any of your numerous readers, favour me with a list of greenhouse plants, suitable for furnishing a small greenhouse; stating what month each plant blooms in, so that I may be enabled to have a succession of blooming plants during each month in the year? By so doing you will greatly oblige  
J. P. DUDLEY.

You would much oblige me and other subscribers to the *Midland Florist* by answers to the following queries:—What is the difference in appearance and culture of hybrid perpetual, Bourbon, China, tea-scented, and noisette roses? Is the sun, after frosty nights, prejudicial to carnations in frames? Would soapsuds be injurious to the ranunculus or carnation? What is the earliest and best potato? What is the very best carnation and picotee in each class, having only room for about eight large pots? How soon will cow dung be sufficiently rotten to grow the ranunculus?  
VERITAS.

[The above will be answered next month. In reply to the private communication, "Yes."]

Will you be kind enough to let me know, through your valuable work, what are the recognized properties of the hyacinth? Also what sorts are of superior form and colour; the deepest and brightest red, the best black, blue, yellow, or buff?

R. YEOMANS.

What is the best method of applying marl to gardening purposes? It is of good quality. Might it be used in potting plants? How must I manage *Erythrina caffra*? The plants are from seed last year; they appear more shrubby than *E. cristagalli*. Should they be cut down in the autumn?

Northumberland.

W. C.

BULLFINCH.—This bird is now (Jan. 25) busily picking the buds off my Mayduke cherries. Will any of your readers kindly favour me with a method of scaring this plaguy bird? It is difficult to be always watching.

[We know of no better plan than shooting them; or they may easily be caught in a trap-cage, with a call-bird.]

Be pleased to inform me of the best method to adopt in fertilizing and making a stiff clayey soil loose or friable. I have had a piece of this description lately put into my possession; the former possessor stating that he had used sand, horse dung, &c. but what it yielded being very indifferent (if he speak the truth), particularly as respects carrots and parsnips. One whom I have spoken to on the subject, says it is excellent, and will produce anything; but I wish to have your opinion. Is such ground fit for potatoes and garden vegetables, for an apple or pear tree, for currant and gooseberry bushes, or for mangold wurtzel? It has not been turned up this season. I wish it had, to receive the fertilizing effects of the frost and snow, which is rather abundant at the time I now write, in this neighbourhood (about a mile from Ashton). I only came here on Christmas day, or I should have had it well trenched, and left in rough ridges, for the meliorating effect of the frost.

J. W., A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE FIRST.

*Ashton-under-Lyne, Jan. 18th.*

[Such a soil, we should say, would be suitable for apples, pears, &c. We should trench it, and then apply a good dressing of lime, or lime and salt. It would produce good potatoes, and if well manured, would *grow anything*. *Burnt clay and night soil* we find the very best manure, on similar land. Take the Scotchman's advice. The Flour-hall is a second early potato, and is now (Feb. 12) in most excellent condition for the table; thus proving itself a good keeper. If J. W. will refer to the advertising sheet of *Johnson's Farmer's Almanack*, he will there find a hand corn mill figured. The price is — We grow our own wheat, and for a family of ten, the majority being adults, the consumption is no joke; and as economy is the order of the day, we intend purchasing one. Get *Neill's Fruit, Flower, and Kitchen Garden*.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



A LOVER OF FAIRPLAY.—There can, we imagine, be but one opinion on the subject. Who could possibly expect as much prize money to be given for two cabbages, six leeks, or a bunch of rhubarb, as for a first-rate hyacinth, auricula, tulip, or carnation? Independent of the disparity in the actual value, let any one contrast the trouble and anxiety the florist has in producing these *gems of Flora's kingdom*, in showable condition; how many disappointments he experiences; and how often, after all his expense and care, does some unlucky

accident or marauding insect blast his hopes. We delight in seeing vegetables well grown ; but we think that the proportion allowed by the society alluded to by "Fairplay," is amply sufficient.

In answer to your correspondent (James Meldrum), in the February number, who inquires what a "breeder" tulip is, I would say, that when tulips are raised from seed, they are found, on blooming the first time, to come *selves*, that is with cups entirely of one colour, with the exception of a circle of white or yellow at the bottom : these are called *breeders*. On the other hand, when a tulip has got rid of this dingy self colour, and blooms with the white or yellow ground thrown up and carried through to within a short distance of the edge of the petal, so as to form a feather, or flame and feather, it is termed broke or rectified. Various methods have been tried, to induce these breeders to break into colour, but with no certain success. Some may break naturally, the first year, but most will require a much longer time to develop their beauties. An exchange of bulbs from one grower to another, at a distance, may be mentioned as likely to promote the object. I noticed, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, last year, a method, which is merely to place the dry bulbs under the hot sun in the summer. This is a simple and easy method, if found to answer even partially. I tried it upon about a hundred breeders, principally seedlings, and am looking forward to the approaching bloom, in anticipation of seeing a number of new faces on my beds. J. B.

#### SIX HANDSOME TREES FOR A LAWN, in reply to "A Curate."

If the space is large, we would recommend

*Æsculus rubicunda* (The Pink-flowering Horse Chestnut).

*Pyrus spectabilis Riversii* (Rivers's Double Chinese Crab).

*Cedrus Deodara* (The Deodar Cedar).—Noticed vol. 1, p. 386.

*Araucaria imbricata* (The Imbricated Araucaria).—Noticed vol. 1, p. 348.

*Cryptomeria Japonica* (The Japanese Cypress).—A most beautiful hardy evergreen tree.

*Cratægus flore pleno rubra* (The Double Pink Hawthorn).—No ornamental grounds ought to be without this.

#### FOR A SMALL LAWN.

*Robinia inermis* (The Unarmed Acacia).—This forms a singularly pretty tree, when grafted standard high, on the common acacia.

*Cytisus elongatus* (The Long-branched Cytisus).—When this is either budded or grafted on the laburnum, it forms a small tree, bearing a profusion of yellow flowers, the whole length of its branches.

*Quercus cerris variegata* (The Variegated Turkey Oak).—Described vol. 1, p. 312.

*Cytisus alba incarnata* (The Pink Persian Broom).—This beautiful plant is not cultivated so much as it ought to be. It is sometimes grafted, or inarched on the laburnum.

*Robinia aurea* (The Golden-leaved Acacia).—Very handsome; the variegation is good, and it must be seen to be appreciated.

*Cytisus purpurea striata* (The Upright Purple-flowering Cytisus), is peculiarly adapted for situations of this kind. Grafted on the laburnum, it makes a very desirable tree. The flowers are pink, and pea-shaped.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

### FOR MARCH.



ON a warm border, may be sown a few seeds of *cabbages* (which will make good plants when the autumn-sown ones are over), *cauliflower seed*, *Brussels sprouts*, *savoy*, and *cauliflower broccoli*.

It is advisable to sow early and late *peas* on the same day, if possible, by which means, a *regular* succession will be maintained; sowing again, when these are above ground, such sorts as *Dancer's Monastery*, *Fairbeard's Champion of England*, &c., for new varieties; whilst of old favourites, and at the same time the least expensive sorts, we may mention *Knight's Dwarf Green Marrow*, as one of the best. *Knight's Tall Marrow* is invaluable; where long *prickings* or stakes can be obtained, or where the parties growing them will be at the trouble to support them with strings, &c. these peas continue making laterals, blooming, and cropping through great part of the season. As shorter growing sorts, the *Scimeter* is excellent, whilst *Bedman's Imperial*, *Green Marrow*, *Woodford's Marrow*, and *Flack's Victory* are all proper for small gardens.

Successional crops of such things as *spinach*, *mustard* and *cress*, and *radishes*, must be attended to, whenever the ground is in a fit state.

*Beans*.—The main or successional crops must be planted. The *Green Windsor* is much esteemed, and *Johnson's Wonder* and *Taylor's Windsor* are very excellent.

*Potatoes*, towards the end of the month, should be got in, for a fall crop. *Tinley's Early*, the *Flour-ball*, and *Chalmore Kidney*, are fine and prolific varieties.

*Rhubarb*.—Plantations should now be made, by division of the roots. It is useless to propagate from seed, except in anticipation of new varieties, as this plant sports much.

*Asparagus beds* should also be made towards the latter end of the month.

*Celery*.—As soon as the first sown have two rough leaves, they must be pricked out, in order to get stiff well-rooted plants.

*Carrots, parsnips, &c.* should be now sown in drills, which is the best plan with most crops, in order that the soil may be thoroughly stirred during their period of growth.

In the flower garden, during fine weather, active preparations will be in progress.

*Ranunculuses* should be got in without delay.

*Carnations*.—The layers which have been kept in frames, or otherwise protected, may be planted in the large pots, for bloom, by the latter end of the month, placing them, if possible, for a week or two, in a sheltered situation. Reference may be made to our first volume, for the necessary details of cultivation of this beautiful and favourite flower.

*Anemone roots*, if not previously planted, should now be put into well prepared and moderately rich compost, and will well repay, by their vigorous growth, any extra trouble bestowed on them.

*Tulips*.—Carefully examine the foliage, for *canker*, which, if not speedily removed, will seriously injure the plant, in many instances causing death. Cover from severe spring frosts, and in dry weather carefully stir the surface of the beds.

*Polyanthuses* and *auriculas* must have all the air possible, if in frames, otherwise the trusses will be drawn up weakly, which seriously detracts from their beauty.

*Hardy annuals* may be sown towards the latter end of the month. See, in our first volume, the best method of sowing, &c.

*Hardy herbaceous plants* may be parted and replanted; and the seeds of various sorts, saved during the past summer, may be sown in warm situations.

In the greenhouse and frames—

Sow *calceolaria seed*. This is extremely minute, and must be covered but slightly, and the soil must be very fine.

The various *nasturtians*, or *tropæolums*, which it is desirable to bloom during summer, must now be repotted, and brought into gentle heat.

*Greenhouse climbers*, of a ligneous or woody character, must be attended to. For a large conservatory, the hardy plant, *Glycine sinensis*, will make a superb appearance.

Cuttings of *geraniums* may be put in, and repot *camellias*, &c.

In the fruit garden, grafting may be done towards the latter end of the month; but this depends very much on the season. It is generally advisable to get the cuttings or scions some short period before using, laying them in the ground till wanted. This allows the stock to be rather in advance, which is conducive to the success of the operation.

All pruning, &c. must be finished forthwith. We intend, in consonance with the wishes of many correspondents, giving a few practical hints on cutting and pruning fruit trees, in an early number.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ON SEEDLING POLYANTHUSES

RAISED IN FELTON AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,

DURING LATE YEARS.

BY MR. WM HARRISON, SECRETARY TO THE FELTON UNION OF  
FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

THE *Midland Florist* being now one of our best mediums for the description of seedling florists' flowers, I embrace this opportunity of laying before its readers the following descriptive remarks on seedling polyanthuses, which have been raised in this locality during the last few years. They afford another proof of the great improvement and progress which this favourite spring flower is making in different parts of the kingdom, by the practice of florists saving their own seed from the best established varieties; and although many seedling plants have to be annually thrown away as totally worthless, yet the pleasure of anticipation is so great in the bosom of the ardent florist, and the chance of raising new and deserving varieties is so good, when seed has been carefully saved, that the seedling bed of the polyanthus grower is, after all, one of the most delightful branches of floriculture. Such it has become to me; and without occupying space with further remarks, I shall now describe the following seedlings:—

*Craiggy's Bertram*.—This is an exceedingly beautiful variety, raised by Mr. Craiggy, of Crawcrook, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The pips are well formed, the eye a very fine yellow,

the tube neatly elevated, and the ground colour exceedingly dark. The lace is rather light (I mean *narrow*) and uncommonly perfect. It promises, therefore, to be one of the finest in cultivation, and will, I have no doubt, command the admiration of all who cultivate it. I have placed it beside Maude's Beauty of England and some of the first varieties, and have no hesitation in pronouncing it equal to the best of them.

*Craiggy's Britannia*.—This is another of Mr. Craiggy's seedlings, and is also an excellent variety. The pips are large and uncommonly flat, the tube a little elevated, the eye a fine stainless yellow, the ground colour a rich dark brown, and the lacing rather heavy and exceedingly regular. One of the greatest recommendations of this variety is, that the pips are much above the ordinary size, and totally free from cupping, being as flat as a shilling. I hail its appearance with pleasure, and congratulate Mr. C. on his success.

*Craiggy's Timandra*, alias *Highland Mary*, is another magnificent variety of this lovely tribe of spring visitors, and is a desirable addition to the most select collection. The tube is most beautifully elevated above the eye, the eye itself is a fine stainless yellow, the ground colour a beautiful rich darkish crimson, and the lacing perfect, upon a truss of ten pips. This truss took the fourth prize at Felton, on the 7th of May, 1844, the first three being won by very fine blooms of Pearson's Alexander, Maude's Beauty, and Clegg's Lord Crewe. It also won the medal at the Newcastle horticultural meeting, two years before, beating Pearson's Alexander, and the much talked of Nicholson's Bang Europe, and may therefore be considered to have established its character as one of the finest varieties in cultivation. It is a prolific trusser, and a diamond of the first water, and is rapidly finding its way into various parts of the kingdom, having been sold out, after its success in the spring of 1844, at ten shillings a plant. I cordially recommend it to the attention of the fanciers of the polyanthus, as a variety which has been well tested, and has received "*golden opinions from all sorts of people*."—[Mr. Craiggy is at present the only amateur able to supply *correct* plants of this variety.]

*Thompson's Lord Morpeth*.—This is a beautiful seedling of 1844. It took the seedling prize at Felton that year, and was raised by James Thompson, Esq. at Morpeth. It is a fine trusser, and so like Maude's Beauty of England, that ordinary observers would be very apt to confound it with that variety. It is, however, so correct and beautiful, that it cannot fail to be a decided favourite in future years.

*Harrison's Hero of Felton*.—This seedling bloomed for the first time last spring, and my own notes of it are as follow:—A fine truss of eleven large pips, as large as Princess Royal, and

similar in many respects to Nicholson's King, which are its two parents. It is a strong growing variety, a splendid trusser, tube finely elevated, lace regular, ground colour a rich brown, and eye very circular and much better defined where it meets the ground colour than Nicholson's King. The above truss was sent to Mr. Dickson, editor of the *Gardener's Gazette*, who thus notices it (see *Gazette*, May 1, 1847):—"W. H.—The polyanthus, Hero of Felton, is a very pretty variety, and possesses the following properties:—The truss large, and of good form; the pips large, round, firm in texture, and very flat; lacing good in colour and well defined; tube about the average size, with a nicely formed thrum; ground colour a rich crimson; the yellow of the eye is not equal to the other properties, it should be exactly the same shade of colour as the lacing; also the divisions of the corolla are a trifle to deep."

*Harrison's Lalla Rookh*.—My own notes of this variety are as follow:—This is a seedling of 1845. A truss of ten expanded pips was sent to Mr. Dickson, April 27, 1847, and seven more pips, unbloomed, upon it. The tube beautifully elevated, the eye a very vivid yellow, the lace quite perfect, and of the same colour, the ground colour a very rich dark brown, and the pips tolerably circular and mostly comprised of six segments, although some of them only contain five. Mr. D. remarks of this—"Lalla Rookh is a flower of some properties, but not so good as Hero of Felton. The truss is *large*, the colour *bright*, the tube and thrum *good*, and lacing *perfect*, the outline of the pip bad, and the segments of the corolla are too much indented."

*Harrison's Gem*.—This was a beautiful seedling in 1846, but last year, from the severity of the winter, the blooms were weak and small. I sent some of them up to Mr. Dickson, who said, "Gem is a pretty little flower, and *very perfect*; but it wants size to make it a show variety." This was not the case in 1846, as the pips were then of an excellent size; and as the plants of it are this season vigorous, I trust to see it again attain its original bulk. I need only add that I consider it worthy of its name.

*Harrison's Foxhunter, now Saladin*.—This was described by Mr. Dickson, last year, as "*a good second-rate flower*." The truss sent to him had received a great deal of rain, and could not, therefore, be in its best state for inspection. I will only add that it is a strong and vigorous variety, the foliage long and pale green, pips a good size, ground colour darkish brown, eye a rich yellow and very circular, lacing rather light, but very correct, except that it has in some segments the fault of Burnard's Formosa, in not reaching the eye in the middle of the segments. This fault is, however, not general, and I shall take more care of the blooms this season.

*Gallon's Felton Loaning*.—This is a fine seedling, and very similar to Pearson's Alexander; but it is considered an improvement upon that old established favourite.

*Gowens's Catherine* is a very pretty and distinct variety, and won our seedling prize in 1846, and also our sixth prize, last spring. It is a very distinct and delicately edged sort, and will be described at greater length, after its bloom this spring:

*Riddell's Mitford Rival* is a very magnificent variety. A truss of nine pips won our fourth prize last year. The lace is tolerably correct, the ground colour completely black, the eye rich and very circular, tube neatly up and pretty well filled with the anthers, the pips very large and flat. It is a most striking variety, but the edge is rather serrated here and there, and not so smooth as could be wished. Were it not for this, it would certainly be the king of all the polyanthus tribe. It was raised by our old and esteemed friend Mr. Wm. Riddle, of Mitford Castle, near Morpeth.

*Craiggy's Tartarus*.—I have not had the pleasure of seeing this splendid variety in bloom yet, but the following remarks to me, in a private note, may, from the respectability of the raiser, be relied on:—"Tartarus, when well grown, will bring a truss of eleven or twelve pips, each as large as a halfcrown, with the ground colour quite black, as its name indicates (see heathen mythology). The pip is extremely round, with but little indentations more than what belongs to the top of the segments; the colouring a pure lemon, and well defined when the truss is strong, and the plant strong and healthy; otherwise, on a small and weak plant, you can only recognize the kind by its round pip, as the markings are often entirely wanting, which is rather strange, you will say, and no one who cannot grow it strong, need expect much from it. It is, however, a free and robust sort, and with me gets to a tremendous strength. If its defects are to be considered, it is not quite so round in the eye nor so elastic in the footstalks as might be wished—so difficult is it to get all parts in perfection in the same flower. I sent a pip of it to the *Gazette*, last year, and it was favourably noticed by Mr. Glenny, who spoke of it as '*quite an acquisition*.'" I trust to have the pleasure of blooming it myself this spring, and then you shall hear from me again on the subject.

I must now close this paper, and if you consider the above remarks worthy of the space they will occupy, I shall be glad to see them inserted in your next number, and will be happy to resume the subject at some future opportunity.

*Felton, Northumberland, Feb. 1848.*

## ON THE HYACINTH.

BY MR. YEOMANS, OF GRANTHAM.

[Completed from page 86.]

TUBS or boxes, about a foot deep, with plenty of holes bored in the bottoms, are the best vessels in which to sow the seed. Use abundance of drainage, then light soil to within four or five inches of the top, next a layer of the manure, a little more soil, and then the seed, which should not be covered with more than an inch of soil. Protect them from frost. When they begin to appear above the surface they should be well supplied with water; if they are kept dry, many of the seeds will not germinate till the following year. When they have completed their growth for the season, which will be known by their assuming a yellow hue at the top, do not give them any more water; they are better kept dry, to allow them to ripen. Then take them into the house, give them a top dressing of manure, and let them remain in the boxes another season; or prepare a bed in the garden, with the manure about nine inches from the surface, and plant them two inches deep. The third season, increase the depth of the manure a few inches. I consider it best to use manure for the seedlings, to push them on in their growth, that no time may be lost. The fourth year, the greater part of them will begin to bloom, though not to such an extent that any idea may be formed of their merits, for many that appear single the first time of blooming, if they have a small floret or two, when the bulbs become older and stronger, prove good double flowers; it is therefore necessary to save all that are of good colour, and give them a fair trial. To prevent much trouble, bags should be provided for all of the first year's growth, that there may be no confusion; for they often form offsets before they bloom; I have seen them with very small offsets the first year, and there is such difficulty in sorting them,

many being so much alike, particularly when they bloom weak, that it is next to an impossibility to separate them. Paper bags will do very well for this purpose, for I find that the small seedlings are not so apt to mould as the old bulbs. Those that are single are nearly equal to those that are double, which is one reason why there is more encouragement in raising this flower than many others: and I think, with a little perseverance for a few years, we shall have a greater variety and brilliancy of colour, with superior form.

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### CULTURE OF THE ESCHALOT.

THIS very useful vegetable, of the onion tribe, cannot be too highly esteemed, being generally a sure crop, surpassing the onion in flavour, and not so subject to the ravages of the grub, but possessing the good property of keeping better. Having been a grower of them for the last sixteen years, and having raised some of late years finer than those I have generally seen exhibited, I beg to present my method of growing them to your numerous readers.

I prepare my bed in the autumn, by burying a good portion of rich manure—night soil, if possible. This I let remain until the middle or 20th of March, when I dig it well over, rake it level, partially straighten the edges of the bed, and then sow a little radish seed on it. I make the bed forty inches wide, and having selected a sufficient quantity of the smallest and soundest eschalots, and cleaned them well, I commence planting, or rather pressing them with the thumb and finger into the soil, just below the surface, beginning two inches and a half from the edge of the bed, leaving five inches between each row, and setting them four inches apart in the row; thus planting seven rows on the bed, the last the same distance from the edge as the first. This

system I have found to produce an equal weight of eschalots, of much finer quality, than if I had planted four or five rows of large bulbs on the same ground; besides, as regards value, the small bulbs are comparatively worthless. Some few, in striking, may throw themselves out of the ground; these, as a matter of course, must be put right again:

As soon as the radishes are off, I stir the surface of the soil, betwixt the rows, with a spud, or small fork, and sow sufficient soot on the bed to make it black all over. This must be done when it is likely to rain, or while it is raining, otherwise a good watering will be necessary. I afterwards use soap suds to water them with at times, say once a week. Where suds are not attainable, manure water (liquid manure), not too powerful, may be applied. This should be done in the cool of the evening. When ripe, pull them, let them partially dry, then tie them in bunches, and store them away. They will generally be off the ground in time for a bed of late turnips.

I will say to your numerous readers, in the words of Horace,

"If a better system's thine,  
Impart it freely, or make use of mine."

*Mansfield.*

J. W.

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## CULTIVATION OF THE CHINESE PRIMROSE.

I HAVE read with pleasure the several numbers of the *Midland Florist*, but I have not seen an article on the cultivation of the *Primula Chinensis*, or China Primrose. I imagine this pretty plant would be a great favourite with a certain class of your numerous readers, as it is of easy culture, and blooms most profusely, at a period when flowers are very scarce.

In my opinion, there is not a more beautiful small frame or greenhouse plant, than this choice flower, and with a little care in cultivation, it would become a very pleasing object. The mode I practice is as

follows:—In the month of March, take a seed pan, and carefully drain it with broken pots; afterwards fill it up with a mixture of light loam, peat, and white sand; make the surface even, to receive the seed, which being sown, cover it to the depth of the eighth of an inch, with the same compost, finely sifted; then place the pan in a temperature of sixty-five degrees. When the plants have attained a tolerable size, pot them carefully into well-drained sixty-sized pots, using the same compost, with the addition of a little leaf mould. Afterwards keep them for a time in a close, shady, and warm temperature, until they commence growing; then remove them to a cool frame. Henceforth continue to repot them (with the same compost), as the roots appear around the ball, until you have got them into twenty-four-sized pots, in which they may remain to flower. Shading them will be important during the summer; also keeping them from heavy rains. Pinch out the flower stems as they rise, which will give the plants strength, until you wish them to bloom profusely, then let them all come together. The plants may be removed to the greenhouse or sitting-room to bloom.

In this way I grow them eighteen inches to two feet in diameter, with fine healthy foliage, and a complete mass of flowers.

GEORGE HAYTHORN.

*Wollaton Gardens, near Nottingham, Feb. 1848.*

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## GROWING AND FORCING SEA KALE.

FOR THE AMATEUR.

It may not prove uninteresting to your amateur readers, to know that with comparatively little trouble, they may supply their tables with good forced sea kale, during the months of winter and spring; and that too at a trifling expense. I will, therefore,



endeavour to show how this may be done ; but I will first offer a few remarks on its growth previous to forcing.

1st. Choose a good rich piece of ground, lying well exposed, and trench it up well in the autumn ; leaving it rough, to receive the action of the frost. Then, in March following, put on some good rotten dung, and dig it in, pulverizing the soil well. That done, draw drills two feet apart, and nearly two inches deep ; then sow the seed moderately thin, and when the plants are up, thin them out to four inches asunder, retaining the strongest. About five or six times, during summer, in moist weather, give them a moderate dose of liquid manure (if it can be had), diluted with water one-half, if it is very strong ; taking care to loosen the surface, as soon as it becomes dry. Dutch hoe them often during the growing season, for the two-fold object of keeping down the weeds and rendering the surface loose and open. By this mode of treatment, the growth of the plant will be greatly promoted. If the ground be in good condition, and attention is paid to them, as directed, during summer, the roots will generally be fit for forcing the first winter ; but, however, I would advise sowing every spring, and forcing the second season : by this means a succession of good roots will be at command, at each returning winter. Care must be taken not to let any of the plants run to seed, as they are very apt to do during summer ; so pinch all seed stalks off, as *soon* as they appear. When the leaves are dead, dig up those roots intended for forcing, and lay them in, as thick as possible, in any spare corner ; covering them over with litter, or anything, just to keep off the frost, so that the roots may be had at any time they may be required.

2nd. Construct a box or frame (of any boards that may be had), eight feet long, four feet wide, and twenty inches deep ; the top to be covered with four wooden shutters, to slide up and down rafters, like the lights of a common frame. The joints must all

fit close, so that the *light* may be *totally excluded*, which is a very *essential* point. Next, having some stable dung, or any fermenting material, previously well prepared, by frequent turning, watering, as may be necessary, until all rank heat is passed off, make up a bed of sufficient length and breadth just to admit the frame; make it two feet six inches high on one side, and two feet on the other, in order to throw off the wet, as the frame is the same height all round, the bed must give the slope. When the bed is made up, place on the frame, and put on the shutters. In two days, soil the bed half the depth of the frame, *i. e.* ten inches; there will then be ten inches left for the sea kale to grow in. Keep the frame closed till the soil is warmed; then try the heat, and if it be found not to exceed fifty-five degrees, the plants may be put in with safety. I may mention that sea kale will not bear hard forcing, I mean strong heat; therefore, fifty-five degrees may be reckoned as the maximum, and forty the minimum rates of temperature, and then there is no danger of scalding the roots. When the bed is in a fit state to receive the roots, fill about one-third or one-fourth of it, laying the roots in the soil as close together as possible. When the first roots have fairly started into growth, another lot may be put in, and so on with a third and fourth, in like manner; and when one lot is all cut, the roots may be taken out; thus providing room for continually fresh successions. And, by protecting the bed and frame with mats or straw, and giving a slight lining, if required (should the heat decline too much), and by properly introducing the roots, a continual supply of good sea kale for the table will be secured.

By taking up the roots, and forcing them in the manner I have endeavoured to describe, instead of covering them with pots, according to the old method, we secure the following advantages:—1st. The cost of the box or frame will be less than the cost of a sufficient number of pots to keep up a *regular* supply.

2nd. A much *larger* amount of sea kale may be forced by a much *smaller* amount of fermenting materials, and consequently less expense. 3rd. The sea kale will be equally good and sooner fit for use, in severe weather, than by the old method. 4th. It can be much easier and quicker gathered for use. 5th. And not least, is the advantage, that *more sea kale can be grown on the same extent of ground, than could be with propriety, if it were to be covered with pots.* Other advantages might be named; but the above, I trust, will suffice.

If there is any apprehension of a scarcity of roots for the following season, the roots, after they have been forced, may be planted out again, and by due attention, they may be forced again the following season; but this, however, I would not advise, unless in case of necessity. If, in taking up the roots for forcing, any are found too weak for the purpose, they should be replanted in rows, and will make good plants by the next season. Although I have mentioned the size of the frame, of course it may be modified according to circumstances or demand, for a frame the above size, having three successions, will afford a large supply of sea kale. It may not be amiss to remark, that rhubarb may be taken up and forced under exactly the same circumstances; therefore, if desirable, rhubarb may occupy one part of the frame, and will answer perfectly well. Any one having a spare frame may make it available, by darkening the lights. In a *dark warm cellar*, it will also force admirably well. Thus by the plan I have described, or some modification, the amateur may always provide himself with a dish of good sea kale, during the winter season, and that too at a very cheap rate. I am afraid I have been too lengthy, but my object was to make my subject clear. I have *proved* the plan, and I shall be happy if it be of service to *any* of your readers.

HENRY WOOD.

*Colney House Gardens, St. Albans, Feb. 1848.*

## A WORD WITH "FAIRPLAY," RESPECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

It must be admitted by every one, that the principal intention of regulations, in societies of this kind, is rather for the management of their affairs than the correction or punishment of offences. It perhaps is fortunate, that beyond the contempt of all respectable men, and his exclusion from honourable company, no other or greater punishment can follow the *mean scoundrel*, who would be a knave where *honour is the only motto*, and the only proper qualification for membership. Wealth and worldly distinctions pass here for no more than they are worth ; and the humble admirer of nature, with honour for his crest, stands upon a level with the wealthiest. I quite agree with you, that any regulations would be ineffectual with unprincipled exhibitors. But I can scarcely imagine that the chance of getting a comparatively small reward for villany, would be a sufficient prompter to a midnight prowl. Is it not the strong impulse of degeneracy and despicable meanness ? The best security which societies can have against such, is in the good sense and cordial co-operation of respectable men. It seldom happens that meanness can be practised long without detection ; because, somehow or other, suspicion is excited, and men are put upon their guard. I do not quite agree with you that envy and knavery are classfellows. A man may be envious and indiscreet in his language, but he is incomparably superior to one who would rob his neighbour. You refer to the show at Wakefield, as furnishing an example of a *vilifier*. It is unfortunate when falsehood prevails. This, I should hope, is seldom the case. I will suppose, for argument, that it is reported to the committee that a certain exhibitor has staged a flower which is not his own growth and property. I am unwilling to think that the committee would act upon an *ex parte* state-

ment. I should hope they would call the exhibiter thus accused into their presence, inform him of the charge, and confront him with his accuser. I would give little for the discretion of a committee who would place implicit confidence in a statement made by a stranger. The inquiry instituted by the Leeds society is highly creditable, both in justice to themselves and to their injured neighbour; so that though, on the occasion alluded to, he may have suffered unworthily, he has not thereby forfeited the esteem of those who know him best. This question naturally forces itself upon us—Who but a neighbour could inform against him? The golden rule of loving our neighbour as ourself, should be the motto of every society, and the bosom charm of every man. With this for their magnet, *societies will not founder*, and exhibitions will be, what they ought to be, sources of pleasure, friendship, and good will. The Wakefield show has been alluded to, and being an open one, I think it is *fair game*; but perhaps all the sins of that meeting are not chargeable upon the committee; for in the appointment of judges they may not always succeed in procuring the most competent, and it would perhaps be unjust to lay that to their charge which is purely accidental, and over which they could not exercise a complete control. If it were one of the regulations of this meeting, that flowers erroneously labelled should be disqualified, and the judges, in their wisdom, and acting upon their instructions, did disqualify single flowers, or pans of flowers, simply because they met with a name they had never seen before, is it right the committee should be held responsible? Some will say, certainly they are! So think I. And to make it self-evident, I will only observe, that they are the parties in whom the exhibitors confide, and they expect justice at their hands. What satisfaction can there be, if a pan is thrown out solely through the ignorance of the judges? Such I believe was the case, in one instance at the least, at the Wakefield show. How is a person

to select a pan of flowers, under such circumstances? How can he estimate the capability of the judges? He is bound to exclude every thing new, however good it may be, or probably risk his chance of success to the caprice of incompetent men. I never would consent to judges having such power. The object of competition is excellent management, and that does not consist in the name. In a pan of flowers, the judges have nothing to do with the names. There is only one of each class, and their province is to select the best. But in judging the classes, another rule holds; and here they must be careful that two of the same sort in the same class be not placed; and whenever a difficulty presents itself, they ought to refer it to the committee of management. The only rules for the successful working of a society, are such as secure equal justice to all.

JUSTITIA.

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## WEeping TREES, ADAPTED FOR LAWNS, ETC.

BY THE EDITOR.

### THE ASH (*FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR*).

PENDULOUS trees are now numerous and of extremely diversified character; and are alike attractive by their singularity and their graceful habit. One of the most common is

THE WEEPING ASH. (*Fraxinus excelsior pendula*).—One of the tallest trees in the kingdom is at Elvaston Castle, the seat of the Earl of Harrington, near Derby. The stock, or common ash, on which it is grafted, was drawn up, by being crowded amongst other trees, to the height of nearly eighty feet. In the course of the improvements, the trees which surrounded it were removed, and it now stands boldly out, the most unique specimen in England. There

is likewise a fine specimen in the Derby Arboretum, which has been trained so as to make a capacious arbour, for which purpose it is well adapted. This very beautiful variety came originally from Cambridgeshire; the parent plant grew in a field near Wimpole.

**THE GOLDEN-BARKED WEEPING ASH.** (*Fraxinus aurea pendula*.)—We grow this handsome variety; its habit is similar to the above, but it is yet comparatively scarce, and will, doubtless, be much in request, from the circumstance of the young branches being of a deep golden yellow, giving the tree a striking and picturesque appearance in winter, when denuded of its foliage. We think that deciduous trees, remarkable for the beauty of their shoots or branches, such as the Scarlet Dogwood, the Golden and Scarlet-branched Willow, the Snake-backed Maple, &c. ought to be more extensively cultivated, their lively colours contrasting as they do with the sombre hue of other trees, during the winter and spring months.

**THE LENTISCUS-LEAVED WEEPING ASH.** (*Fraxinus lentiscifolia pendula*.)—This variety appears to be somewhat tender; the points of the shoots being destroyed in severe weather, in the northern counties. It is very distinct, the foliage being small, and the branches are pendulous, but not so decided as the first-named variety.

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## THE BEST FRUIT TREES FOR SMALL GARDENS.

WE have repeatedly been asked to state our opinion as to the varieties of fruit trees best adapted for small gardens. We now proceed to do so, being fully aware that amongst the very numerous varieties of some kinds of fruit, there may be others as good as

those we now recommend ; but we will venture to say, whoever plants the sorts here recommended, will not be disappointed.

Amongst small fruits, for we will begin with them, gooseberries hold a prominent position, being alike used in their unripe as well as their ripe state, for wine-making, preserves, &c. As a good cropping berry, to use green, the Whitesmith is most excellent ; whilst for getting when ripe, we may enumerate Lancashire Lad and Warrington, with Crown Bob and Companion. As preserving berries, there is the small smooth dark gooseberry, called in many parts of England " The Raspberry," from its flavour somewhat resembling that fruit ; this bears most profusely, and for flavour can hardly be excelled. The Rumbullion, a small rough red, is also first-rate for this purpose ; the tree being of upright growth, and very hardy. For dessert, combining flavour with beauty of appearance, we may venture to recommend The Yellow Champagne, and a new variety raised by Mr. Wallis, of Lenton, Notts., a beautiful light red, and from its clearness, called " Transparent."

In currants, decidedly the best black is the Naples. Whilst Ogden's Black Grape, Lee's Seedling, and May's Bangup, may be planted, if more variety is required. White currants are scarce, at least different sorts of them. The Dutch is most generally planted, and is very fine and large. The Crystal is equal to the preceding in size and flavour, and possibly it may be a better bearer.—In red currants we would give the preference to the Haughton Castle ; it is large, well flavoured, very handsome, bears well, and ripens its fruit more regularly than the Grape, and the bunches are longer and larger than the Dutch.

As an early strawberry, Princess Alice Maud should be planted ; succeeding this with Keen's Seedling, which is extremely prolific, and universally esteemed. Myatt's British Queen is very large and productive ; whilst for late cropping, nothing is superior to the Elton Pine.



The best flavoured raspberries are Scalter's Magnum Bonum (yellow), Victoria (pink), and Antwerp (yellow). For preserving, &c., the Red Antwerp is an established favourite. The Fastolff, a variety of rather recent introduction, however, disputes with it the palm of excellence. This last variety grows strong, bears well (the fruit being very large), feathering down to the ground, and producing quite late in the season.

[To be continued.]

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## Part II.

# NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

THE APRICOT is as commonly seen on the cottages, in country villages, in the midland counties, as the grape vine is on those of the more southerly parts of the country; and the Moorpark is generally planted. A new variety, however, of excellent quality and large size, with the advantage of being much hardier than the before-mentioned sort, has been introduced. It is called the "New Large Red Apricot," from the circumstance of both the skin and the interior of the fruit being a deep orange red.

THE LARGE PEACH APRICOT, or Grosse Pêche of the French, is also new and excellent, being of better flavour and larger than the Moorpark.

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## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

WE have had occasion to speak favourably of Slater's Gladiator, C.B. We now allude to another first-rate sort, HOLLIDAY'S THOMAS HEWLETT. This was

awarded a first-class certificate, at Slough, near Windsor, and greatly admired by all who saw it. It is finely formed, smooth, and the colour well distributed. We are sorry to say that the stock is very scarce, which, combined with its excellence, no doubt, enhanced the price, which has this season been large (fifty shillings per pair). Our readers must look out for it next season.

HOLLIDAY'S FERDINAND, R.F., is a flower that is well marked, and will get to a large size. Good rose flakes, though plentiful, will find this a formidable variety to *pass and beat*, at an exhibition.

MAY'S CALIBAN, C.B., though full enough for north country growers, will be much admired. The ground colour is pure, a point of such paramount importance, especially in so high coloured a flower; and the distribution of the colours excellent.



### HARDY TREES.

ALL the acacias are handsome, and some of the smaller varieties, grafted on the common sort, peculiarly so. THE WEEPING TWISTED-BRANCHED ACACIA (*Robinia tortuosa pendula*), is as pendulous as the Weeping Ash, and very handsome.

TAXUS ELEGANTISSIMUS (*The Most Elegant Yew Tree*), is fastigate, or upright, in its habit; and the leaves are beautifully striped with pale yellow.



### HARDY BORDER & PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

LILIUM COLCHICUM.—This splendid lily is from the Caucasus, and has the habit of *Lilium longiflorum*. The colour, however, is bright yellow, spotted after the manner of the beautiful Japan lily (*L. punctatum*). What a fine thing will this be to hybridize

(or cross breed) other varieties with. We wish all our readers would, during the ensuing summer, attempt something in this way. Let them look round their little gardens, and see whether there is anything that can be improved by cross impregnation. The common lilies may be *crossed*, and the seed resulting from such impregnation sown; and *possibly, very possibly*, they may be rewarded with an improved race.

**METHONICA LEOPOLDII.** (*King Leopold's Methonica.*)—This beautiful bulbous plant was sent from the western coast of Africa, in 1845, by the collector of M. V. Houtte, of Ghent. It is as hardy as the beautiful Japan lilies, and requires the same cultivation. It rises about four feet high, the flowers are yellow, striped with rose, and it will doubtless prove a grand acquisition to our gardens.

### PHLOXES.

The improvement in this class of plants is gratifying in the extreme. We noticed several fine varieties in our last volume. Cultivators should make inquiries for the following, which are quite new and distinct:—

*Standard of Perfection*, with two-coloured flowers, each petal half white and half pale blue, of fine form, in large pyramidal heads.

*Göethe*.—White, striped pale lilac; handsome.

*Annais Chauviere*.—White, with a distinct purple centre.

*Eclipse*.—Blush, shaded at the margin of the petals with deep purplish rose.

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### SHRUB.

**THE DOUBLE-FLOWERED HYDRANGEA.** (*Hydrangea involucrata flore pleno.*)—Whoever has seen the splendid object presented by a well grown hydrangea, which is perfectly hardy, near the sea coast, in the Isle of Wight, and in Devonshire, will be prepared

for the beauty of this very handsome shrub. The flowers are produced in a large corymb, or head. Those forming the exterior of this head of flowers are barren, or sterile, being double, and of a fine rose colour. We shall be glad to hear of its being subjected to a course of cultivation which will change the flowers to *blue*, as in the old variety. The habit of the plant is good, and it will, no doubt, become a general favourite.

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## VEGETABLES.

**DOWNING'S MAMMOTH RHUBARB.**—This fine American variety is said to be as early as the Tobolsk, as large as the Victoria, and more tender and better flavoured than either; approximating, we should imagine, from this description, to Myatt's Linnæus, a first-rate sort.

Amongst improved vegetables, we may here notice,

*Cattell's Green Curled Cabbage Savoy.*—Very handsome, compact, and good flavoured.

*The Red-topped Stone Turnip.*—An excellent sort.

*Adams's Superb White Broccoli.*—Amongst the numerous fine varieties of this vegetable, this will occupy a prominent place in the estimation of cultivators.

*Cattell's Superb Crimson Beet.*

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The orange trees in the royal gardens, at Versailles, Paris, are said to be magnificent. Some are nearly thirty feet in height, and three hundred years old, with stems thirty-nine inches in circumference. The collection consists of 1500 trees. On one there is an inscription, "*Sémé en 1421*;" its age must therefore be 426 years, and it is, doubtless, the oldest exotic in existence. The trees are planted in boxes, made of oak; and these boxes are said to last from fifteen to twenty years.—*Journal Hort. Soc.*

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## EFFECT OF SOIL ON APPLE TREES.

ON removing some young trees, once before transplanted, I was surprised at the ball of root-fibres they had acquired in a short period. The soil was reddish coloured, close, and full of fibre. Other trees, much oftener transplanted, in a neighbouring garden, were found to have scarcely any fibrous roots, at least those trees which had been grafted; but the soil here was poor and stony, about a foot deep, and the trees had thrown out long feeders; indeed they could not penetrate far into the ground, as there was a hard pan. The trees here had been planted on hillocks, and those which were grafted looked very healthy; there were, however, some Aslins and Reinettes on their own roots, which were not thriving, apparently from the poverty of the soil. If a profusion of root-fibres be at all connected with a disposition to form fruit spurs, it should seem that the soil exercises an important influence. However, if we cut a truncheon from a Reinette or an Aslin, we get a tree very shortly emitting fibrous roots from the burr, in any moderate soil. Might not this be used as a stock, if very dwarf trees were desired?

Potting seems to render the trees dwarf, probably from stopping the lateral spread of roots. In autumn, I planted a crabstock in an eighteen-sized pot, and the following spring had it grafted with a Hawthornden; I then plunged the pot in a very airy dry border, where it remained two years. The plant was then turned out into a bed, and shortly began to bear, and has produced a great many apples, although not yet so high as many gooseberry bushes in the same garden. Very little pruning has been requisite, and the fruit is not shaken off by wind.

EBOR.

## ON PITTING CAULIFLOWERS AND CABBAGES.

MR. THOMAS JEFFREY, of Felton, having had, last autumn, more cauliflowers than he could consume, and having often been in the habit of *pitting* cabbages, thought that he would try the same experiment with *cauliflowers* and *Walcheren broccoli*. He pulled them up by the roots, tied the leaves together, round the flowers, and then buried them in the soil; that is, he set the crowns upon the surface of the soil, and then earthed them up on each side, to the depth of six or eight inches. This was done about the middle of October, and they were taken out about the middle of January, in a state of perfect preservation, not a whit worse than when first covered up, and no decay about them. It is advisable, Mr. Jeffrey says, to pit them a little prematurely, that is before they have come quite to perfection, as they advance a little during the time they are buried in the ground.

W. HARRISON.

*Felton, Feb. 5.*

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ELY'S EMPEROR, RED PICOTEE.

I AM surprised that when you give a list of the best picotees, you do not add Ely's Emperor, as it is undoubtedly one of the best we have. I got it from Mr. Ely, when he sent it out, some five years ago, and although we are only allowed six picotee prizes in our society, yet I have won with it every year since. This surely says a good deal for it. It is a good thriver, a strong and vigorous bloomer, and its flowers are always *well crowned*. It seems to me, therefore, that it should be better known, and more cultivated by competing amateurs; and therefore I will thank you to insert these remarks in your next, in justice to Ely's Emperor.

W. HARRISON.

*Felton, Feb. 5.*

**APPLES ON WET SOILS.**—The late Mr. Loudon observed in a nursery at Oxford, some Burr-knot apple trees, of small size, *on a wet bottom*, and upwards of eighty years old, which bore well every year, producing very little wood and abundance of fruit; also a black cluster grape, above a hundred years old, the roots of which had also got down to the wet bottom, and which produced scarcely any fruit. In thin poor soil, apples of the Burr-knot, or similar kinds, whose small fibrous roots run along the surface, seem to require annual mulching, or top-dressing of some kind, to keep them healthy.—**EBOR.**

Mr. Manning, of the Salem Nursery, United States, made the following experiment on the Baldwin apple:—"It is well known that the Baldwin bears only every other year. To obviate this was the object of Mr. Manning; and in the spring of 1846, he spent nearly two days in cutting off all the blossoms. It had the desired effect; this year (1847), the tree is completely loaded with fruit. This experiment is valuable, for it shows in a large orchard, when the trees, by chance, nearly all fruit in the same year, any number of them can be made to fruit in the alternate year, simply by the labour of destroying all the blossoms."—*Hovey's Magazine*.

**CURRENT WINE.**—Mr. J. H. Watts, of Rochester, New York, gives the following recipe, in *Hovey's Magazine*, for May, 1847:—Pick the currants when fully ripe, and after obtaining the juice, either by use of a wine press, or by squeezing through a cloth, with the hands, to each gallon of juice add six quarts of water, three and a half pounds of common brown sugar, and put it into the barrel, taking care, however, that it is full, and let it thus stand till it has gone through the necessary fermentation; then add the alcohol, one pint to eighteen gallons, and close the barrel for one year at least, letting it stand in the cellar. After this time, it is fit for use, and may be bottled, and should be sealed. Age tempers it.

**SEEDLING APPLES.**—I have seen several, in different nurseries, but the only good one I ever saw, was raised by a village tailor, from a pip of the Ribston; and I am told that a very good apple was raised in Cleveland, near Yarrow, by an old woman, who sowed a pip in a cracked teapot. The Ribston and the Old Nonpareil seem likely to be the parents of good apples, but probably the seed should be procured from the south of England; at any rate, the Ribston Pippin, as grown at Ribston, or in Yorkshire generally, seems to me to be very inferior to those exposed for sale at Covent Garden.—EBOR.

**CURRANTS.**—I have frequently fruited seedlings from the Black Naples, but the fruit was so poor that I always threw them out. It appears that there is, in the Botanic Garden, at Bury St. Edmunds, a seedling black currant of a greenish hue. If *Anderson's Sketches of the Russian Empire*, published in 1815, are to be relied on, the red currant grows in a wild state, on the Altaian Mountains, to the size of an ordinary cherry.—EBOR.

**ON FLOWERING GERANIUMS.**—In April, we begin to arrange for this interesting time, now at hand. The blooming shoots should be trained out by sticks, that should not appear higher than the base of the flower stalk. The truss that will not support itself, is either drawn or unfit for the amateur's stage. Air should be freely given, from early in the morning till two, three, or four o'clock, when the sun warmth should be shut in, and the syringe occasionally drawn over them. The water should be rain, conducted from the roof, into a tank, under the stage, or other convenient place, where it will be kept at the temperature of the house, *an important point*. At the end of this month, the eye, brought to a level with the plants, should look horizontally over a surface of buds, standing above the foliage, similar to a crop of barley, when ripening.—*Beck's Treatise*.



## Part III.

## QUERIES.



**CARNATIONS.**—Unity is strength ; and a publication like the *Midland Florist* enables distant individuals to assist each other. If any carnation grower will inform me what carnations and picotees produce most pollen, I shall feel obliged. Walmsley's William IV. (scarlet bizarre), Wood's Duke of Northumberland and Mitchell's Nulli Secundus (purple picotees), generally afford some supply.

**BLOOMING AND WINTERING CARNATIONS**—A paper published in the *Cabinet*, long ago, recommended a glass roof, fixed on uprights, nine feet high on the south, and seven on the north side ; the open space to be filled with mats nailed to the uprights, in severe weather. But surely some better plan than nailing and unnailing might be devised ; and any information will be thankfully received.

EBOR.

I have a plant of the *Cactus speciosissimus* in my workshop window, which flowered last July. I innoculated the flower with the pollen from a flower of the *Cactus Mackeii* ; the seed pod has remained on all winter, and is now as green as the plant itself, with no appearance of being ripe at present. Will you have the kindness to inform me, through the *Midland Florist*, of the time of the year when the seed will be ripe ; when and how to prepare the seed for sowing ; what compost I must use for the young plants, and how I must treat them when they come up ? I have no greenhouse ; the workshop, where I shall have to grow them, is kept moderately warm : with care, shall I be able to raise a few seedlings, and how long will they be before they bloom ?

Newcastle-under-Lyme.

W. X.

A subscriber for two copies of the *Midland Florist* would feel obliged if you, or any of your numerous readers, would give a definition of the term "loam," which is so frequently employed in articles on floriculture, horticulture, &c. Sometimes we read of sandy loam, turfy loam, stiff loam, and so on. Walker, in his excellent dictionary, describes it as fat unctuous earth, marl. I confess I do not understand such conflicting expressions. It appears absolutely necessary that we should each understand what is intended by this and such like terms.

Will you please to inform me how I must proceed in striking slips of the *Camellia Japonica*; and if they will succeed and flower in a cottage window? W. D.

Would J. B. inform a brother florist whether he considers the placing of tulip seeds, as he recommends, with the *germ downwards*, of vital importance? Mr. Slater recommended them to be placed *edgeways*, but said nothing about the latent *germ*. The reason he assigned for this was, "that being a *flat* broad seed, it could not well force itself through the *earth*." I wonder whether it is usual for seeds scattered as nature would, to perish in consequence. My experience makes me doubt very much the importance of the above two theories; though I am decidedly an advocate for spring sowing. And as the seeds are about six weeks in making their appearance, I should prefer the 20th of February to the two dates mentioned by J. B. EXPERIENTIA DOCET.

Will you oblige a subscriber to the *Midland Florist* by giving some information on the system of grape growing, in an early number; and whether gooseberries, currants, and raspberries will force well in pots, and the best mode of treatment? Cheltenham.

W. B.

I have a large holly, about six feet high, and two rhododendrons, about four feet, which I want to move to another situation. Would you, or any of your correspondents, say which will be the best and safest way of removing them? An answer in the next number will much oblige, I. A.

[There will be no difficulty about the rhododendrons. Dig round them, and they will lift with a large ball of soil. Variegated hollies generally have more fibrous roots than the green, or common, and may be removed with comparative safety. In digging round the holly, be careful of the fibres.]

You will much oblige, by giving in the April number of the *Midland Florist*, a list of six of the earliest and best potatoes; also of six late varieties. FRANK.

[Opinions vary so much, and soil and situation make so great a difference as to the quality of a *really* good potato, that possibly some of those after-mentioned may not prove quite up to the mark; but we know of none better on a hazel loam. For good early sorts, easily procurable, "Frank" may get the True Ash-leaved Kidney, Soden's Early Oxford, Looker's Oxonian, the Golden Dwarf, the True Walnut Leaf, and Tinley's Early. For six late sorts, Rilott's Flour-ball, Regent, American Native, Chalmore Kidney, May's Lapstone, and the Short-top Red.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to your correspondent, J. P. Dudley, I will venture to recommend the following greenhouse plants, as well adapted for his purpose, and which I trust will be sufficient for a beginner. In early spring, he may have the different varieties of Chinese Azalea (*Azalea Indica*); and as easily obtained varieties, we will name *Azalea ledifolia*, or *Indica*, a plant of exquisite beauty, when covered with its snow white blossoms; and though not quite so fine in form as some of the new sorts, yet being very hardy, cheap, and floriferous, it will always be esteemed. To this may be added *Azalea coccinea*, with fine scarlet flowers; and *Azalea laterita*, with reddish blossoms. The different varieties of *correas* also bloom early and abundantly. The foliage and habit has generally been a drawback on these plants, and of late years many new varieties have been originated, with marked improvement in this respect. Mr. Gaines has fortunately raised one lately of first-rate character. J. P. D. will easily obtain *Speciosa*, and *Pulchella*, *Turgida*, and *Bicolor*, which will be sufficient to start with. Camellias are well known as first-rate greenhouse plants. Keeping economy and quality in view, I would recommend the Old Double White; *Punctata*, beautifully spotted and striped, blooming early and well; *Eximea*, of excellent form; and *Imbricata*. As a very showy plant, in bloom through the winter and early spring months, I would mention *Tropæolum Lobbianum*. *Cinerarias* and *fuchsias* will succeed the above. Of the latter, Milliez's *Napoleon*, Turville's *One in the Ring*, and Crips's *Ellen* are good light coloured sorts; Knight's *Arethusa* and *Nestor*, and Smith's *Eximea* are pretty dark varieties. Then come *geraniums*, in all their varied and beautiful hues. Scarlets are always useful. J. P. D. will find the following six very good:—Knight's *Firefly* and *Scarlet Perfection*, *Eclipse*, Fairburn's *Scarlet*, *Comet*, and *Cooperii*; and as finely formed and beautiful varieties, easily obtainable, he should procure Beck's *Rosy Circle* and *Aurora*, Lyne's *Duke of Cornwall*, Beck's *Zenobia*, Thurtell's *Othello*, and *Leonora*. As a good plant for summer, and easy of cultivation, I would recommend *Genista Canariensis*; with such plants as *leschenaultias*, *pimelias*; some few *ericas*, such as *Ventricosa*, *Hartwellii*, *Aristata*, *Tricolor*, &c. For later in the season, the very beautiful new *chrysanthemums*, of which I saw a good selection in your March number, will afford him ample choice. I dare not trespass on your space longer, though I hope these few hints will be serviceable to many others of your readers besides J. P. D. I would recommend him to send the list of

varieties, adding what he likes of chrysanthemums and cinerarias, to some respectable nurseryman, asking for what sum he will furnish a good plant of each. After having obtained these, and grown them, if any further information is required, I shall be at your correspondent's service.

H. S. M.

Your correspondent, Veritas, has put many questions; and as information sought, ought, if possible, to be afforded, I will, in the absence of any more scientific communication, endeavour to answer him. He asks, first, what is the difference in appearance and culture of Hybrid Perpetuals, Bourbon, China, Tea-scented, and Noisette Roses? The former are very different in habit to the others, having more the appearance of common garden roses in foliage, &c. but bearing highly scented flowers during summer, and usually blossoming again in autumn, when the flowers are often finer than those produced in summer. The blooms grow on erect footstalks, and the plant is robust and hardy. Though some varieties will not open their flowers well in this country, they do so on the Continent. Madame Laffay, Auberon, Dr. Marx, and Duchess of Sutherland are fine and good. The Bourbon, Tea-scented, and Chinese bear some resemblance, though the former has large leaves, thick, shining, and leathery. The blooms are produced in great profusion, and often late in the autumn; they are generally beautifully formed, with thick camellialike petals, but are sadly wanting in the characteristic of their family, *fragrance*. Chinese roses are now extremely varied and pretty, wanting the powerful odour of the Tea rose. The colours are from white to deep crimson, and being evergreen and hardy, are in great request. The old Chinese Rose may be considered the type of this class, whilst the old Rose odorata is the progenitor of the beautiful varieties we now possess. Dark flowers in this class are scarce, but all are beautiful. Noisette roses are evergreen, with shining leaves, and of more *scrambling* habit than the preceding, bearing also numerous clusters of flowers. The original flower, raised by M. Noisette, a nurseryman of Paris, was a semidouble pale pink; successive sowings, impregnations, &c. have now given us many splendid varieties, and they form most interesting objects as pillar roses. As for culture, all the sorts may be grown in pots, in a greenhouse, or in the open border. The Chinese and Tea preferring a wall; Bourbon and Noisette being hardier, will either grace a flower bed, trellis, or pole. Rather strong loam, well enriched, suits the rose best.—*Query 2.* Is the sun, after frosty nights, prejudicial to carnations in frames? If the plants have been exposed to the frost, *decidedly so*; and all plants are better not to be excited before their proper season.—*Query 3.* Would soapsuds be injurious to the ranunculus and carnation? Weak soapsuds, I imagine, would be ser-

viceable, but it must not touch the foliage.—*Query 4.* What is the earliest and best potato? This is a difficult question. Soden's Early Oxford is good, and the Ash-leaved Kidney, *when true*, is excellent.—*Query 5.* What is the very best carnation and picotee in each class? Here again doctors differ. I would say, Easom's Admiral Curzon (S.B.), Slater's Gladiator (C.B.), Barrenger's Earl Spencer (P.F.), Pickering's Mrs. Pickering (R.F.), Hollyoake's Dido (S.F.), Edmonds's Jenny Lind (L.R.), May's Portia (P.P.), and Marris's Victoria Regina (Ro.P.)—*Query 6.* How soon will cowlung be sufficiently rotten to grow the ranunculus? When you can rub it between the finger and thumb, as black unctuous mould. H. S. M

**SELF RANUNCULUSES.**—In reply to "A Subscriber from the First," who inquires about the best six self-coloured ranunculuses, I beg to inform him that the best we have in the north are described in the number for last September. The selfs appear to be the most difficult to raise, and are consequently scarce; but the following may be relied on as *among the best*, and not *very* dear in this neighbourhood:—

1. *Craiggy's Miss Liddell*.—A fine large flesh-coloured self.
2. *Tyso's Grand Romana*.—A large strong-growing red variety.
3. *Tyso's Dictator*.—A magnificent golden yellow.
4. *Tyso's Laureate*.—Another fine yellow.
5. *Tyso's Pindar*.—A pale flesh-coloured self.
6. *Tyso's Saladin*.—A fine yellow, but sometimes comes spotted.

The following are six good old sorts.

1. *Nabat*.—A good red, middle sized, but very fine.
2. *Condorcet*.—One of the blackest we have.
3. *Variat*.—A fine large dark self.
4. *Admiral Keppel*.—A very beautiful purple.
5. *Quaker Lady*.—A good shaped buff flower.
6. *Orange Brabancon*.—A good orange flower.

The above are all very good, when well grown; and if the inquirer lays in a stock of them, and grows them well, he will find that his chance will be very good at an exhibition.

Felton, February, 1848.

W. HARRISON.

Observing in the March number of the *Midland Florist*, a query by R. Yeomans, respecting the hyacinth, I beg leave to state, that the chief properties of that flower are, form, size, and colour. The colour should be bright, clear, and distinct, and the form regular. A large flower will, of course, be preferred to a small one, provided the other qualities are equal. As double flowers, the following will be found superior in their respective classes:—

**RED.**—Acteur, Compté de Lacoste, Grootvoorst, Madame Zoutman, Temple Van Apollo, Waterloo.

**WHITE.**—Anna Maria, Don Gratuit, Heroine, Minerva, Virgo, Nannette, Queen Victoria, Tour d'Auvergne.

**BLUE.**—Belle Mode, Envoy, Lord Wellington, Passe Tout, Bonaparte, L'Illustre.

**YELLOW.**—Bouquet d'Orange, Heroine, Louis d'Or.

The following single flowers are very good varieties:—

**RED.**—Charlotte Marianne, Fanny Kemble, Cornelia, Mars, Princess Royal, Paix d'Amiens.

**WHITE.**—Grand Vanquer, Hannah More, La Candeur, Premier Noble, Voltaire.

**BLUE.**—A la Bon Heur, Emicus, L'Amie de Cœur, Nimrod, Lord Melbourne, Appius, Haller.

**BLACK.**—Bathan Noir, Naboplasser, Prince Albert, La Plus Noir, Vulcan.

**YELLOW.**—Adonia, King of Holland, Prince of Orange, Hercules.

If your correspondent wishes for a fuller description of these varieties, I shall be happy to furnish the information.

AMATOR FLORUM.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR APRIL.



### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

THIS will be a busy season amongst *dahlias*. Potting off rooted cuttings must be steadily persevered in, where a considerable quantity is required. We should be glad to see attention directed to rearing very dwarf varieties. Generally speaking, these noble flowers are too *rampant* for the small allotment of the artizan; but if smaller varieties could be originated, bearing flowers equally perfect in form, they would be most extensively cultivated, and we should have *dahlias* for "*massing*," on the same principle as scarlet geraniums.

*Polyanthuses.*—Seedlings are now in full bloom—at least ours are—and the proper distinctive marks must be made. We are keeping several *pin-eyed flowers*, for seed, and from the circumstance of their being so much easier to *impregnate artificially* than those whose thrums cover the stigma, we would advise others to do the same, and *report progress*. We would not care so much about the exactness of the lacing of the parent plants, though where perfect, so much the better; but we must insist on the purity of the yellow, and the intensity of the body colour, and, above all, the rotundity of the flower. Blooms must be sheltered, and snails killed; and the seed, if not already sown, should be immediately got in.

**Tulips.**—Some of our friends at Derby, have again lost either greater part or the whole of their collections, by "*the rot*." There appears a sad fatality attached to one party, for grow where he will, his bulbs always decay. The buds will now be rising fast, and it is consequently a very critical time. The plants must be protected from hailstorms and frosty nights; but the attention required at the florist's hands, will be more than repaid by the fine bloom he will have this year. We trust that the York, Manchester, and Derby open shows will give a fresh impulse to the cultivation of this splendid flower.

**Ranunculuses.**—These too will now be getting pretty well up. A great point is to keep the soil well closed round the collar of the rising plants. These roots delight in a cool close subsoil.

**Auriculas.**—Give the plants an occasional dose of liquid manure: that made with sheep droppings will be best. Keep the lights over the flowers, but give air by every means possible, for if kept close, the heads are drawn, and the beauty of the plants spoilt. We recommend our readers to refer to the article at pp. 11 and 39, vol. 1.

**Carnations and Picotees.**—Place these in their large pots, for blooming. Supposing the compost is ready, and *dry*, or comparatively so, place large pieces of potsherds over the hole at the bottom of the pot; over this, place a layer of moss, which not only prevents the soil running among the drainage, and thus choking it up, but it retains moisture, and is a great help to the plants in dry weather; fill the pot with the compost, and plant each layer in the centre, giving it a gentle pressure; then take the pot up by the rim, and give it a sharp rap on the ground, which settles the soil. If there is any doubt as to the freedom of the compost from wire worms, a potato should be quartered, and a piece placed immediately below the surface. If wire worms are about, they will prefer the potato to the layer, a preference which leads to their destruction.

**Pinks** do not lace so well, if planted in the spring, as in the autumn. Those that have come in during the past month will scarcely have time to recover themselves; when they get established, they will require some liquid manure.

**Pansies.**—Propagate them by side slippings, and when rooted, either pot them off in small pots, or plant out in beds.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN.

**Potatoes.**—People now begin to take breath again, with regard to this indispensable vegetable. Disease has not been so rife amongst them, and larger breadths of *earlies* have been planted this year; and from what we learn, very many new and fine varieties, raised from seed, will be let out during the next two seasons. The main crop should now be planted. Salt and lime will be found a good application to the land. Do not plant too close; seed is lost, and nothing gained by it.

**Peas.**—As previous sowings appear above ground, sow again ; keeping the soil stirred between the rows which are coming forward.

**Onions.**—Burnt soil or clay is a fine stimulant for these useful bulbs. Sow in drills, for late crops.

**Beans.**—Continue to get in the Green Windsor, Toker, Johnson's Wonder, and Taylor's Windsor, as required. Do not place the rows too close.

**Beet.**—Whyte's Dark Crimson is a fine sort. Boiled, sliced when cold, and eaten with vinegar, it is excellent. Sow in drills, twelve inches asunder.

**Brussels Sprouts, Curled Broccoli, and Savoys** may all be sown now. Autumn-sown plants, however, in this part of the country, generally thrive best.

**Cress.**—Of this there are several varieties. The Curled, and the Broad-leaved Golden Curled, a very fine sort, may be sown for succession.

**Celery.**—Sow for early and main crops, the latter end of the month. Rich light vegetable mould is very suitable for them.

**Sea Kale.**—See an excellent article in this number.

**Cucumbers.**—For main or general crop, the artizan who can boast of a frame, should now be on the look-out for plants ; those that are stiff, and have not been reared in too high a temperature, will suit his purpose best.

**Cauliflowers.**—Autumn-sown may be planted out ; and a sowing for autumn may be made about the 20th.

## FLOWER GARDEN.

In gardens, all *perennial plants* should now have their last dressing. Dead leaves, decayed leaves, &c. should be out of sight ; *box edgings* should be repaired ; transplanting those things which are not too forward proceeded with ; and old unproductive *apple trees* should have their heads removed and regrafted.

In the pit or frame, *balsams* should be potted off ; *vegetable marrows*, and *tomatoes*, or *love apples*, got forward for planting out ; and many sorts of *annuals*, such as *Ten-week Stocks*, *German ditto*, *zinnias*, &c. raised in pots, for turning out in the border. In addition to the *annuals* recommended last season (p. 73, vol. 1), the following will be found very pretty :—*Coreopsis nigra speciosa*, yellow and brown ; *Clarkia alba*, white ; *New Dwarf Dark Purple Convolvulus* ; *Escholtzia crocea*, deep orange ; *Schizanthus pumila*, pink, spotted with yellow and brown ; *Salpiglossis picta*, various ; *Indian Pink*, either single or double, scarlet, variegated with white ; *Sanvitalia procumbens*, yellow. The *Dwarf German Ten-week Stocks* are also very well worth cultivating, varying as they do from dark crimson through the several shades of violet, deep rose, and pink, to white. For manner of sowing, refer to the before-mentioned page.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## ON THE PROPERTIES AND JUDGING OF TULIPS.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

I HAVE carefully read the various remarks made in the *Midland Florist*, as to the form of the tulip, and am of opinion that the sooner we agree to a standard of perfection, the better.

Some florists object to one-half of a hollow ball as too short for the cup, and others as too long; but as nature, in all her works, has set certain bounds, which are remarkable for their harmony and exact proportions, so we may safely infer, that if we go from one extreme to the other, we are straying from the right path. Too little attention has been paid to form; novelty has carried judgment captive, and hence numerous differences of opinion with regard to florists' flowers.

There can only be one standard of perfection in a tulip, and all ought to adhere to it. One locality is not particular as to the form, if the marking is correct; another, if the bottom is pure, as well as being well marked, notwithstanding the petals are pointed and narrow. In another locality, colour is an object; if it is not a certain shade, it is despised. If there were only one standard, it would tend to confidence in purchasing new varieties; as it is, some counties do not look at the marking, paying more attention to size.

With these preliminary remarks, I shall, as the time is approaching when Flora's fairest gem, the tulip, is in perfection, endeavour to aid the good work, by making a few remarks upon what are the principles and rules which should be adhered to.

In the first place, *form, size, and bottom* ought to be the basis of all tulips; that is, a pure base, either of white, if of the rose or bybloemen class, or a good yellow, if a bizarre. Now what is the requisite form for a tulip? I should at once decidedly say one-half of a hollow ball, as being the most agreeable to the eye, and also forming the best proportions to look at. One-third of a ball is too short; and any one who will draw a circle, and divide it into one-third, as well as one-half, will soon be able to judge which most harmonises with the eye. Then comes the shoulder (as it is termed) of the tulip; and it must be remarked, that all writers upon the subject, up to the last few years, insist upon one, and that nearly all tulips which are considered first-rate, have the shoulder. I have in many instances found that where there is no shoulder, the tulip does not stand so firm in form as when shouldered. I have seen some short-cupped flowers (that is, those which are below the half-circle), destitute of the shoulder, when fully blown, and in a hot sunny day, show almost a flat surface, and no one can deny that this is a very great fault. By a shoulder, I do not mean that it should be angular, but curve gradually and gracefully. I know this opinion will not meet with the approbation of all, yet I must be more fully convinced to the contrary than I am at present, before I relinquish it. A great objection to the circular base is, that it is generally more contracted; and all good florists like a broad base in a tulip. The *base* of the inside ought to be exceedingly pure; not a cloudy white in the rose and bybloemen class, nor yet a yellowish green in the bizarre, but a pure bright yellow. The stamens ought to be pure, the anthers bold, and the pericarpium not quite so high as the anthers. But allowances ought to be made if the tops of the stamens are slightly tinged, as this is most commonly owing to the colouring matter running down, and causing what is but a trifling defect. I have often observed the stamens of a flower gradually become

completely discoloured, when it has been in bloom during seven days. This is frequently the case with *Polyphemus* and some others. Now in judging the tulip, I should not consider it a great defect if slightly tinged at the top; but if nearly the whole or the greater portion is discoloured, I should then consider it a great defect, and place it in the class accordingly. Size must always be taken into consideration, and ought on all occasions where the marking accompanying it is perfect, or nearly so, to have the priority. The *petals* ought to be *broad, thick, and fleshy*, well rounded at the top, and when expanded, to fall back and overlap each other so closely that the point of junction shall scarcely be seen; they must never hang loosely; they should be as smooth as possible upon the edges, and all serratures and notches be considered a defect; they ought all to be of an equal length, and not show wide openings at the top. *Pointed and narrow petals* are very great defects; all flowers of this class are generally long in the cup, and when they have been some time in bloom, show openings which will at once disqualify them for winning.

**FEATHERED FLOWERS.**—A feathered flower ought to be regularly marked, and the feather not too broad in one place and too narrow in another, but composed of fine pencillings, striking into the ground colour so as just to be visible at the termination. There are parties who prefer heavy feathered flowers. This is an error. When flowers are very heavy, they have not that neat appearance that they have when feathered in a medium way; a light feather, if perfect and regular, is far more desirable than one that is heavy. A plated feather—that is, one merely feathered, and laid on destitute of those fine strokes which show nature's most delicate touches, is not to be so highly prized as the one previously described. Every break in the feathering should be considered a defect, as well as every mark on the ground colour, and all patches of breeder colour; and the flower

that has the fewest number of faults to be placed first, and so on to the end of the class. The ground colour of a bizarre ought to be a good, bright, strong yellow. All straw and pale lemon grounds must give place to the stronger, and those approaching to what is termed king's yellow, or chrome yellow, to be preferred. A dull heavy orange is as great a defect in a bizarre as the pale colours.

**COLOUR OF THE FEATHER.**—This is a point on which much difference of opinion exists, and one which ought to be defined. Some judges will scarcely look upon a reddish-coloured feathered bizarre, and would in many instances, notwithstanding its properties as to form and bottom, place it low on a stage, on account of its colour. This is a paltry prejudice, especially as some of these would-be judges have for years placed Trafalgar, a flower with a scarlet feather, long cup, and tinged bottom, at the head of the class. Colour is not to be looked at, excepting all the points are equal in each flower, and then I should certainly give the preference to the dark one. The same remarks will equally apply to bybloemens. Roses should also be judged in a similar manner, giving preference to a bright scarlet. There are some tulips which cannot be classed with either roses or bybloemens; consequently, they ought to be excluded from competition. Tricolored bizarres should not be allowed to be shown as stage flowers.

[To be continued.]

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## CULTURE OF THE DAHLIA FOR EXHIBITION.

BY MR. R. EDWARDS, FLORIST, NUTTALL, NEAR NOTTINGHAM.

I BEG to offer the following directions as the result of considerable experience, attended with uniform success. The ground which I occupy is loam and old vegetable garden mould. The finest flowers are produced with less labour and attention, on the latter,

to which, of course, I give the preference; and I would recommend persons selecting a new piece of ground, or beginning to cultivate the dahlia, to choose a moist light soil, in a convenient situation for giving them plenty of water, as rapid growth causes them to produce flowers with perfect centres; and those flowers that generally come thin after the first bloom, should have an open situation and heavy soil, in order to produce slow growth. Marquis of Aylesbury, Hudson's Princess Royal, and such like flowers, are fit for the former situation; and Lady St. Maur, Beauty of Sussex, Marchioness of Cornwallis, &c. are suitable for the latter.

A FEW REMARKS ON PLANTING.—The ground having been well thrown up in ridges during winter, about the first week in May, having a quantity of rotten manure and soil, well decomposed together (but where it is convenient, I prefer night soil, which I find to produce the finest flowers), I mark the distance from plant to plant (six feet each way), dig the soil out one spade deep and three feet wide, and then fill the space with the prepared compost. The proper time to commence planting is about the middle of May. Select those plants that are short, stout, and fast swelling; avoid those that have stood too long in the pots, and have become hard in the leg. I prefer plants about six to eight inches in height, as they make shoots near the ground. I first place my stakes where I intend to plant, then set the dahlias, and secure them with strong bass, sufficiently loose to allow the stem to swell. As soon as they produce the side branches, I secure them with small sticks. I must strongly impress on those who wish to obtain fine flowers, the importance of tying the branches out, *not up* in a bunch, like a wheat sheaf, which is too often the case; as it is essential that the sun and air should circulate freely through the plants, as well as round them. I procure four side branches on each plant, if possible, then place four stakes, the distance varying according to the growth of the plant,

some eighteen inches to two feet, and thin all superfluous shoots away as the plants progress. It is also injudicious to subject each variety to the same amount of thinning; for by such treatment, as much injury will be done to some kinds as good to others. Those that are generally too large and coarse, must be spared, when such varieties as require size only, should be thinned considerably. Those who have grown the dahlia for exhibition will be fully alive to the importance of keeping down insects, more particularly the common enemy, the earwig. Many plans are adopted for this purpose; the most common, and perhaps most effectual, being to place bean stalks about the plants, and to put upon the stakes which support the plants, small pots, half filled with dry moss, to which they retire. The most active vigilance is necessary, as they fly from plant to plant; but commence early to examine the plants, and keep them down as much as possible. The surface of the ground should frequently be moved; it will require to be forked up between the plants about five or six weeks after they have been set. Cleanliness should be observed in every department, and at every stage of their growth, or success will be anything but certain. From constant watering, the soil near the plants will become baked and hard, it will, therefore, be best to mulch them with partly decomposed manure. This should be done immediately after the ground has been forked over, as it will keep the roots nearest the surface moist. Use soft water, if possible. When the plants are become large, it will be necessary to give them considerable quantities at a time, instead of frequent waterings; but this will depend upon the state of the weather and the soil.

Selecting blooms for exhibition often puzzles the most experienced growers. The dark selfs being so much more numerous and superior in shape to the light flowers, in selecting twenty-four, one or two points often have to be sacrificed, either shape or contrast in colour. I recommend that as much

diversity of colour as possible should be introduced, with due regard to shape and perfect centres. Much can be done by arrangement, yet we often see stands contain a whole row of flowers of great similarity. At all times place deep circular flowers at the four corners, and select quality before size. Discard all confused centres. Never unnecessarily handle the blooms; it should be remembered that all this painstaking has been to produce them in the highest state of perfection, to be looked at only: the dead appearance caused by handling can never be removed.

FANCY DAHLIAS are becoming very popular, and deservedly so. The impression, that these party-coloured flowers could never be produced of good shape, is fast wearing away; every succeeding season has tended to remove the prejudice, and some of the flowers in the accompanying list of fancy dahlias would grace a stand of ordinary varieties. I should recommend the same treatment for these as the others; and in a few years they will, no doubt, be as extensively cultivated, being more showy in the borders, and with improved shape, will be more attractive in the stands.

The varieties in the following list will be found worthy of cultivation, and very ornamental to the flower garden:—

- Ascanio* (Salter).—Purple and white, pretty.
- Alexander* (Schultz).—Gold, edged with scarlet.
- Bijou de Closhault*.—Dark rose and white.
- Bouquet de Breuil*.—Scarlet and white, fine shape.
- Captivation* (Salter).—Nankeen, tipped with white, large and fine.
- Coquette* (Schmidt).—Carmine and white, pretty.
- Delicata* (Girling).—White, edged with rose.
- Erzherzog Stephan* (Deegen).—White and purple.
- Eugene Sue*.—Violet purple and white.
- Hermine* (Makring).—Scarlet and white, fine shape and very strong.
- Judy* (Girling).—Purple, tipped with white.
- Ludwig Pensel* (Deegen).—Blood red, tipped with white.
- Ludwig Marquard* (Sieckman).—Crimson and white.
- Madam Walner* (Girling).—Dark marone, tipped with white.
- Miss Watson* (Girling).—Rose lilac, tipped with white, good.

*Maria Louisa*.—Marone and white.

*Mimosa* (Truelle).—Bright yellow, tipped with white, fine.

*Nihil* (Bailey).—Scarlet and white, large and showy.

*Preussens Kokarde* (Deegen).—White, edged with black.

*Prima Donna* (Sperry).—Crimson and white, fine shape.

*Pet* (Girling).—Pink, tipped with white.

*Quinola* (Poulet).—Dark crimson, tipped with white.

*Rosea alba* (Girling).—Rose and white, very distinct.

*Ville de Beaune* (Poulet).—Scarlet and white, fine show flower.

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## THE ARTIZAN'S AND COTTAGER'S WINDOW, AND THE GERANIUM.

BY A COTTAGE VISITER.

LET us drop the new name, pelargonium, while we say a few words upon our old friends, the Oak-leaf, the Ivy-leaf, the Horseshoe, and all the other varieties of geranium—very household fixtures in the cottages of the neighbourhood in which I was born. It was a sea-side town, and it was the fashion, not only with the cottagers, but also with the tradesmen, to ornament the parlour window with a back row of the above, and a few pots, containing the flowers of the season, in the front. My father, for one, took much pride in his display, and many were the passers by, particularly of the fairer sex, that stopped to gaze. For a long time he gave the flowers all the credit, until he discovered that the daughters of Eve could see themselves reflected in an oval looking-glass, which hung at the back of the room; a discovery that I found rather damped his desire to exhibit his best productions in a place unfavourable to their well doing. But the flat top of our house—that was the place for my mother's geraniums; and there she would often steal from her more pressing cares, to cut off the dead leaves and branches, to repot and tie up to their wooden trellises these favourites of so many seasons. And here too, on the sabbath or the summer's eve, would she draw her



children, and with the sacred record in her lap, instil into our tender minds, those lessons on the fear of God, the love of virtue, and hatred of vice, with which she must ever be associated in all our memories. No wonder then that I love the sight of the old geraniums; and with such associations, I cannot recommend the cottager to discard them, even for the more beautiful varieties that in greenhouses and conservatories have taken their place. Still, while they are retained for the back row, a few of the latter may be placed in the front, and for this purpose they should be selected of dwarf habit and profuse bloomers. Where window gardeners make the mistake is, in not cutting them down soon enough after the flowers begin to fade. They should be allowed to get dry, then be cut closely back to two or three branching eyes. After the wounds are healed, they should be placed in the sunniest window, and watered; and when the shoots have pushed out an inch or more, be dried off again, shook out, repotted, replaced in the same situation, and watered again. This will make them dwarf plants for the following season. But I may perhaps say a few words more another time.

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## CULTURE OF THE ONION.

BY AN AMATEUR, MANSFIELD.

SEEING that you solicit all who have tried experiments to make known the results, I beg leave to forward you the following few remarks on the culture of the onion.

The ground was all trenched deep, twelve rows were manured with night soil, and six rows were manured as follows:—Three of them as recommended in vol. 1, p. 76, and the other three with woollen rags, saturated in pig wash, blood, and soot, for six months. Some rows I drilled ten inches and some twelve

inches apart (as recommended p. 76); but the ten inch were equal to the twelve inch, so that I think the two inches were lost ground; but I certainly think that the onion requires more room downwards, as I have traced the fibre of the roots twenty inches, in a dry season; therefore I recommend deep trenching in winter, for if the following summer be dry, it gives the roots a chance of spreading, for moisture, and if a wet season, it acts for drainage.

The twelve rows manured with night soil were far the best. The whole crop was declared by experienced gardeners to be the best they ever saw, but all agreed that night soil was master. Therefore I strongly recommend night soil (thrown on in winter) to the cottage gardener, as it is a manure which he generally has at hand, and it contains those constituents which are adapted for the growth of the onion.

The varieties sown were the New White Globe and the Deptford, but the Globe was the most productive.

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## ON THE PRICE CHARGED FOR SEEDLING FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

BY MR. I. W. NEWHALL, WOOLWICH.

“AMATOR FLORUM,” who complains of the high prices charged for pinks, &c. to a certain extent perhaps with justice, seems to apply the same condition to those flowers that he would to the “locks, latches, bolts, and hinges” manufactured in his town and neighbourhood, where competition (too often, however, at the sacrifice of quality) has created the “age of cheapness;” and which locks, latches, &c. will be produced to *any extent*, at *some price*, so long as there are buyers to be found.

Not to dwell on the right of the raiser to fix what price he pleases on his flowers, or on the obvious fact that an extraordinary demand cannot increase the

supply a single plant, it is clear that competition is out of the question in a new variety of a flower. You must either give the price fixed, or go without that particular variety. It is quite clear also to those who have had any experience in this matter (I speak particularly of carnations and picotees), that as an article of profit, one seedling of free habit and easy propagating qualities, will pay the raiser better at a low, than another of opposite qualifications will at a high price.

Take for example Flora's Garland and Wilson's Harriet, rose flakes, both introduced by the late Mr. Hogg, to the notice of the London florists, in the same year, and at the same price; Flora's Garland being then a flower known to the Bristol growers for some time, and the other, if I mistake not, sent out for the first time.

How do these flowers now stand as to price, without reference to the quality of the flower, which is not necessary to the present argument? The one is still a comparatively scarce and high priced flower, and the other hardly in request, at half, or less than half, the price; for the simple reason, that nobody loses Harriet, while it is difficult to keep stock of the other, the former increasing freely and the latter shyly, both being, nevertheless, free rooters; the one I can always beg of some brother florist, and the other I must always buy, if I chance to want it.

The same condition would have applied to the seedling plants of those varieties. It is certain that if they had been raised by the same man, in the same year, that the one would have paid him better at a lower price, because he would have had a much larger number to part with; and of course this condition applies generally to this, and doubtless to other classes of flowers.

It is worthy of remark, that both these flowers are included in Mr. Edwards's lists of the "best fifty;" one of course in all the six, and the other in four of those lists supplied by growers of repute.

A FEW REMARKS ON MR. HARDY'S PAPER ON  
PERFECTION OF FORM IN THE TULIP.

THE floral community must feel greatly indebted to Mr. Hardy, for his careful consideration of a question which has always more or less engaged their attention, and especially so lately.

He has plainly shown that the opinions of those who have hitherto ventured to enlighten the public on this important point, are questionable, contradictory, and injudicious.

Mr. Groom's idea of beauty in the semi-oblate spheroid with a depressed pole and good shoulder, is made sufficiently ridiculous by the apt simile of a rainbow with a flattened pole and bulging sides. Mr. Slater's opinions are noticed with that pleasantry which at once designates their *value* and *importance*; and Mr. Glennie must observe that there is too much latitude in his to be practically useful as rules to judge by.

Having thus analysed the published standards, and proved them to be erroneous in principle, inadequate as rules to judge by, and contrary, as far as Mr. Groom's and Mr. Slater's opinions go, to the true principles of beauty, Mr. Hardy proceeds to develop his views, by a few introductory remarks on the general appearance of the tulip, as presented to the eye of the observer. These observations are entitled to the careful perusal of all parties interested in the subject, being simple, clear, and convincing.

Proceeding from general views to the principles on which he builds his theory, he observes, that hitherto no principles have been laid down for the guidance of our judgment; and therefore, it is no wonder that the form of the margin should now remain a disputed point, and that the rules hitherto published are rather for the purpose of supporting some crude notions, than subservient to the plain truths of nature.

From a careful examination into the structure of a

single petal, he observed a manifest tendency in the vessels to the production of graceful curves; that the markings, whether feather or flame, are disposed in curves, which bear a proportionate relation to each other, and to the form of the petal itself. Acting upon Mr. Hardy's recommendation, I examined a number of dried petals, with a magnifying glass of considerable power, and was not only instructed but highly delighted. I will not pretend to condense Mr. H.'s observations on this part of his inquiry, but strongly recommend them to the careful consideration of all. His observations on the disposition of the vessels, their divergence from the centre towards the sides, in regular curves of variable lengths, but all having the same relation to each other, and all forming arcs with a common radius, the distribution of the colouring matter amongst the vessels, and its curvilinear form, are highly interesting and instructive.

Mr. Hardy next shows that straight or level margins are contrary to the laws of nature, for by no arrangement of curves with a common radius could the vessels be made to reach the upper margin at right angles; the beauty of the marking would be destroyed, the arrangement of the vessels entirely changed, and with it the general appearance of the whole flower.

Having with much precision and good nature disposed of the published standards, and by a clear, rational, and convincing mode of reasoning, established his theory of form, Mr. Hardy sums up, by asking, why are we better pleased with a flower that is regularly than one irregularly marked? for the very natural reason that the eye, the organ exercised in the admiration of objects, is pleased with its greater uniformity both of form and marking, which form requires that every petal shall have a curve equal in its radius to half the diameter of the flower.

No greater compliment can be paid to Mr. Hardy's views than their general acceptance as rules to judge by. That no one has attempted to refute

them, or in any way question their truth, is strong presumptive evidence that they are not very assailable.

The article by Brih, which I must confess I have had some difficulty in applying to the subject, is an attempt to reduce perfection to that which is professedly imperfect; namely, to the standard of some existing variety. And, in my opinion, by preferring the shouldering, as it is termed, *a la Groom*, to the circular form, shews a want of taste scarcely excusable in the present day. His desire to see the question of form settled by a committee of experienced growers is all very well; and I imagine, as far as description can go, we have in the *Hardy standard*, that which a committee would approve and sanction; the delineation of which, aided by a little artistic arrangement, would complete the rest.

I gladly avail myself of the present opportunity of acknowledging my obligations to Mr. H. for the important service he has rendered to the tulip growers of Great Britain, by publishing a standard so simple and yet so complete, and more likely to lead to uniformity of sentiment on the merits of the tulip, and uniformity of practice in the management of societies, than any hitherto published. From it the young florist will learn that a tulip whose cup approaches nearest the hemispherical shape is the most desirable; that purity in the ground colour, base, and stamens, combined with regularity of marking, both of feather and feather and flame, is absolutely necessary to give value to any and every variety; that these properties are enhanced by the richness, brightness, intensity, and regularity of the markings; and on the contrary, are vilified by having them feeble, dull, or irregular; and, as far as my humble opinion goes, little remains to be said on the subject, to enable even a beginner to act judiciously in his purchases, and societies so to conduct their exhibitions as to escape the censures of the judicious and the complaints of disappointed exhibitors.

JUVENIS.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.—◆—  
SHRUBS.

**ARBUTUS MILLERII.**—This very handsome hardy evergreen shrub, we believe, was raised by Mr. Miller, of Bristol, some years ago. All the tribe are beautiful, but this is pre-eminently so. The flowers are produced in clusters, and are bright pink, somewhat in the style of our old favourite the Scarlet Arbutus. This, however, appears more robust in habit. It is a very desirable shrub.

**COTONEASTER THYMIFOLIA.**—A new variety of an ornamental family. It is evergreen, with rigid, shining, small leaves. It appears rather prostrate in its habit, and would, doubtless, make a very interesting pendulous tree, grafted as a standard on the common thorn.

—◆—  
TREES.

**CRATÆGUS PUNICEA SPLENDENS.** (*The Splendid Crimson Hawthorn.*)—We used, thirty years ago, to admire the old Pink Hawthorn (*Cratægus rosea*). After a time, our old favourite was supplanted by the Crimson Hawthorn (*Cratægus punicea*), certainly a most delightful tree for a lawn. At a more recent period, the Double Pink Hawthorn (*Cratægus rosea flore pleno*) was introduced. We recollect, before it flowered in this country, that doubts were expressed as to its really being so fine a thing as represented. However, the Double Pink is a most superb tree, blossoming in massive profusion. The new one men-

tioned above is single, and has been lately introduced from France; it is the most intense crimson possible, and will make a welcome addition to this interesting family of small trees.

**THE DOUBLE-FLOWERING HORSE CHESTNUT.** (*Æsculus hippocastanum flore pleno*).—Every body admires the horse chestnut, when covered with its spikes of beautiful flowers. A lady who wrote some articles on botany, a few years ago, compared it to a *giant's nosegay*. The one above alluded to has double flowers, which have an extremely curious appearance.

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## ROSES.

**NEW MOSS ROSE.**—Flowers of this description are always welcome. We believe this variety was originated by Messrs. Lane, of Berkhamstead, and it is designated "Laneii." It is a very double flower, highly scented, the colour a pretty shaded pink, and the blooms very large.

**COMTE D'EGMONT.** (*Portemas.*)—A beautiful new hybrid perpetual, bearing immense clusters of flowers. It is extremely fragrant, and of a new colour in this class, crimson purple, with the centre of the flowers somewhat darker.

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## GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

### GERANIUMS.

**IVERY'S SCARLET.**—A new and fine variety, with extremely large trusses, and good colours and foliage.

**QUEEN ADELAIDE.**—A very fine fancy variety, of good shape. The top petals are strongly marked with deep pink, edged with a lighter shade; the centre of the flower is white, and the lower petals bright pink.



## CINERARIAS.

**MAGNET (Ivery).**—Dark crimson, centre black, or nearly so. The flowers are well shaped, and it has a good and compact habit.

**PURPLE PRINCE (Ivery).**—Shaded bluish purple, fine form, and a very attractive variety.

**SAPPHIRE (Ivery).**—Very dark blue, a beautiful sort.



## HARDY PLANTS.

## ANTIRRHINUMS.

Much improvement has lately taken place in these very showy border flowers. Blooming in profusion during the greater part of the year, they deserve extended cultivation. Amongst many good sorts, we may notice the following as worth having :—

**PAWSEYANA.**—This is a broad stout flower, the tube is white, finely marked with veins and blotches of purple.

**CHAMPION (Ivery).**—A dwarf and compact sort, the tube purplish crimson, centre white.

**EXQUISITE (Atlee).**—Light ground, very handsomely marked with pink.

**STRIATA FORMOSISSIMA (Pawsey).**—A beautifully marked flower, being a mixture of several shades of pink, over white.



## VEGETABLES.

Mr. Seymour, some years ago, sent out some excellent celery, "Superb;" with much attention, he has originated another red variety, which is called "Matchless." It is a most excellent sort, and was very successfully exhibited last season.

**SHURSTON'S CONQUEROR POTATO.**—A new kidney, of very excellent flavour, remarkable for its excessive mealiness. It is also extremely prolific.

**ARNOTT'S CHELTENHAM SURPRISE CUCUMBER.**—This variety is recommended as one of the most prolific grown. Mr. Rendle informs us that four specimens, from eighteen to twenty inches in length, hanging from one stem, within the space of eleven inches, were exhibited in the summer of last year, at Messrs. Hurst and M'Mullen's.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



### HINTS ON HYBRIDIZING OR CROSS-BREEDING FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, ETC.

BY THE EDITOR.

#### No. I.

WE purpose giving some simple directions relative to this interesting operation, keeping in mind that we write for the humblest capacities.

For instance, were we to direct that the *pollen* or *farina* should be extracted from the *anthers* of one plant and applied to the *stigma* of another, perhaps many of our readers might exclaim, and with some reason to, "*Well, this is a move beyond us ; what on earth does he mean ?*" In order to avoid this, we shall endeavour to illustrate *our meaning*, by using language as familiar as possible. We must, in the first place, observe, that the majority of flowers contain the sexual or male and female organs within themselves. This any one may ascertain, by examining certain plants, when in bloom. The most familiar are the Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*). If the pendent bell-like flowers, which are produced in

a cluster at the top of the stem, are examined, there will be found in each a column rising from the centre, immediately below which is the *ovary* or seed vessel; this column is called the *stigma* or *pointal*, and round it are six male organs, called *anthers*, each of which surmounts a slender appendage called a *filament*. Another flower well known to most is the tulip: here the *stigma* or female organ is three-sided, the upper part turning back, apparently cleft in three parts; the *anthers* are the black receptacles which surround it. The same parts may be observed in the Tiger Lily (*Lilium tigrinum*), White Lily (*Lilium candidum*), the Dog's Tooth Violet (*Erythronium dens canis*), the Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). We mention these plants because they are, one or other, well known to most persons who have the slightest taste for either flowers or gardens. Having ascertained these different parts, our readers will observe on the *anthers* or male organs, at a certain period of the inflorescence or expansion of the flower, a black kind of dust (in some flowers, as the crocus, it is yellow, in others brown); without this dust, which is termed *farina*, the flower would be sterile or barren—it would produce no seeds. A *bad nut* is an example of this: when there is no kernel or seed, it is because the stigma has not been impregnated by the farina.

If seeds are to be produced, this dusty-looking farina is absolutely necessary. *Nature, so perfect in all her works*, makes provision for the proper fecundation of each flower, that it may be perpetuated. It is still the same when, like the Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*), the snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*), or the beautiful and slender *Sisyrinchium grandiflorum* (Large-flowering *Sisyrinchium*) with its deep pink bell-like blossoms, they bloom amid the hail, snow, sleet, and frost of our variable springs; as the flowers expand, the *anthers* perform their office, and in spite of sunless skies and cutting winds, the *stigmas* are impregnated, and as the petals (often erroneously

called leaves) drop, they stand boldly out, each one bearing the embryo seed which will produce plants similar in aspect, habit, and flowers. This then is the work of nature. At the time of the year when the above flowers bloom, it is very rarely there are any bees to venture forth, and by their headlong determination to "*sip the sweets*," get covered with *farina*, from the *anthers*, and carry it forward to the next flower, which, if it happen to be a plant near akin to the last one visited, may possibly be impregnated with the *farina* from this busybody insect, and therefore fresh varieties of these plants are rare; but as spring advances, and the air teems with insects, flowers are the principal source from which many of them obtain their existence, and impregnation is in thousands of instances, effected every moment, over the flower-bespangled surface of our gardens, fields, and groves. But we must not suppose that if we see a bee emerging from the cup of a tulip, covered *like a sweep* with *farina*, and immediately settling on a pæony or a wallflower, that impregnation will take place, and that consequently these two flowers will be cross-bred with the tulip, and that the seed they produce will bring plants bearing any affinity to that flower. If *art is to assist nature*, and it is this that we shall endeavour to show, then tulip must be crossed with tulip, crocus with crocus, rhododendron with azalea or rhododendron, bean with bean, pea with pea, in fact, with plants bearing some relationship to each other; in each case, however, selecting for the experiment those which have the greatest beauty, the greatest utility, or the most desirable properties.

The splendid lilies of Japan might be crossed, by having the *farina* of the Tiger Lily applied to the *stigma*; or the beautiful and more frequent Turncap, or Scarlet Martagon, might be *fertilized* with the long-flowering variety, *Lilium longiflorum*, with its pure white trumpet-shaped blossoms. The lilies offer a wide field for experiment, and how interesting and delightful to watch the operation through all its

stages. Here is an occupation in which all may engage in floral rivalry; and we anticipate that many readers of the *Midland Florist* will communicate their observations for the public good. We would strongly impress on all who try experiments during the coming month, that they should note the flowers from which *farina* is taken, with any observations calculated to be of service. We have, perhaps, extended this article too much, but in conclusion, we would say to those who wish to cross-breed a flower, procure a very small camel-hair pencil or brush, the smaller the better, and when the *farina* is in a fit state for application, collect it on the point of the pencil, and apply it to the summit or apex of the *stigma*, with a delicate and light hand. Some persons, after the impregnation, advise gauze coverings to be put over the flower, to prevent any *marplot* of a bee bringing *farina* which is not wanted; but we think that when impregnation *has* taken place, the visits of all the bees in England would not *then* affect the future seed.

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## TWENTY-FIVE OF THE BEST VERBENAS.

As the period of bedding is arrived, we extract the following list of beautiful new verbenas from the *Florist*:—

- Captivation* (Smith).—Bright rose, scarlet spot, fine.
- Comte de Paris* (Salter).—Rose, with blue border.
- Defiance* (Robinson).—Brilliant scarlet, form good, free bloomer, the best in its class.
- Desirable* (Barker).—Purple lake, fine form.
- Desirable* (Smith).—Cream and pink shaded, large and compact.
- Diversity* (Beadle).—Rosy lilac and dark violet.
- Emperor of China* (Ivery).—Deep rich crimson.
- Empress of Scarlets* (Barker).—Brilliant scarlet, excellent for bedding, but of rather inferior shape as a show flower.
- Excelsa Superb* (Smith).—Large deep rose, fine form.
- Fairy* (Smith).—Rose, with scarlet centre.
- Gem* (Smith).—Pale pink, rose centre, fine shape and large.

*Lady of the Lake* (Barker).—Bright rosy pink, truss and flowers large.

*Madonna* (Smith).—Rosy pink, with primrose eye, fine trusses.

*Magna* (Barker).—Delicate rose, flowers and truss large.

*Marchioness of Ailsa* (Barker).—Delicate pale pink, white centre, good shape.

*Miss Sarah* (Smith).—White, pink centre, fine form.

*One in the Ring*.—Salmon, very large.

*Princess Marie* (Salter).—Pale blue, with dark centre.

*Rainbow* (Smith).—Grey lilac, fine form.

*Ruby Superb* (Mayer).—Bright ruby, light eye, fine form.

*Saint Margaret* (Barker).—Scarlet crimson, light violet eye, large and fine form.

*Satellite* (Pearson).—Brilliant orange scarlet, yellow eye.

*Sir R. Peel* (Smith).—Deep peach.

*Virgin Queen* (Turville).—Large pure white, good shape.

*Vixen* (Smith).—Pale pink, fine shape.



## NEW HYBRID IXIAS,

RAISED BY H. DOBREE, JUN. ESQ. BEAU SEJOUR, GUERNSEY.

1. *Purpurea campanulata*.—Large, bright purple flower.
2. *Elegans*.—Tall, white ground, rosy centre, large flower.
3. *Purpurea maculata*.—Dark purple, black centre.
4. *Cuprea capitata*.—Copper-coloured, very large truss.
5. *Canariensis*.—Pale lemon-coloured.
6. *Capitata bicolor*.—Pure white, black centre, large flower.
7. *Lilacea sarniensis*.—Tall growth, most abundant bloomer.
8. *Mutabilis*.—White, changing to pink, crimson eye.
9. *Bright orange*.
10. *Rosea maculata*.
11. *Rubra*.
12. *Lurida maculata*.
13. *Sanguinea*.—Bright orange, with a blood-coloured centre.
14. *Maculata suprema*.—Buff, with a large crimson centre and crimson tips to each petal, beautiful.
15. *Sanguinea*.—Same as 13, but taller and later.

The above are in perfection in the open border, in Guernsey, from the 1st to the 10th of May, or from a fortnight to three weeks earlier than any of the old sorts. They are covered with an awning, and the bed presents one continuous sheet of blossom, of the most dazzling colours.

**TO PROTECT PLANTS IN POTS FROM SNAILS.**—In spring, in my hot-bed, I have always been very much troubled by snails, which, in spite of all my watching and care, often destroyed my tender annuals and other plants from seed, as they came up. I have hit on a plan this year, which has perfectly protected my plants so far; and I have no doubt, if the process is occasionally repeated, it will be a complete protection. It is as follows;—Mix together three-quarters of a pint of pine varnish, one-eighth of coal tar, one-eighth of linseed oil, with a sufficient quantity of Venetian red to make it of the consistence of paint; and apply it with a small painting brush to the rim of the pots or the edges of the boxes containing the plants.—S. H. I.

**HOLLYOAKE'S DIDO SCARLET FLAKE** was raised from Twitchell's Don John, impregnated with pollen from Hufton's Patriarch; both parents being scarlet bizzarres. Six seeds were sown, which produced three plants. One died, another proved single, and the third produced the scarlet flake in question. In habit of growth, it approximates to the Don, or female parent.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.

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**FLORISTS' JOURNAL.**—The plate is *Æschynanthus radicans*, a beautiful stove or warm greenhouse plant. There are papers of great interest on the cultivation of this ornamental tribe of plants; also on the pansy, clerodendrons, the auricula, &c. In the Dictionary of Hardy Trees and Shrubs, we have the following observations, under the head of Ivy:—"This well known evergreen climber is, perhaps, the best plant we possess for covering old walls, or similar places, clothing with verdure what else would be offensive to the eye of taste. It has many opponents, and an

equal number of staunch defenders; though not positively a parasite, *it is decidedly injurious* to living trees, and if permitted to overgrow them, will assuredly cause their death by suffocation. The notion that ivy causes damp in the walls on which it grows, is unfounded, and the contrary opinion may be regarded as most correct.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN is embellished with coloured plates of the *Feathered Pink* (*Dianthus plumarius*). The *Rock Madwort* (*Alyssum saxatile*), a very pretty yellow-flowering hardy perennial. There is a variety with leaves striped with yellow, one of the most clearly variegated herbaceous plants grown. *Solomon's Seal* (*Polygonatum multiflorum*), an old British plant, with but little beauty to recommend it. And that beautiful shrub the *Trailing Daphne* (*Daphne cneorum*). Of this plant it is said that "*the grand secret* (and we are partial to grand secrets of this nature) *of keeping it in health, chiefly consists in the annual laying of its branches, as they continue to spread.*"

THE FLORIST.—The beautiful camellia, *Countess of Orkney*, is here figured and described. It is a pure white, delicately striped with *two shades of rosy pink*. It was raised by Mr. Nicholson, gardener to the Earl of Orkney, Taplow Court, and is a first-rate flower. In an article on the polyanthus, by Dr. Horner, we are glad to see our ideas (expressed in the March number) corroborated, nearly in the same words, as to the habitat of this beautiful plant; and we agree with Dr. Horner, that attempting to grow it in pots, is quite out of character. We have at this time, a bed of seedlings, under a wall, facing the north-east; they are on a sloping bed, composed of two-year rotten turf from a strong loamy pasture, and decomposed cow manure. Nothing can be more luxuriant and attractive at this season of the year. We extract from the *Stray Thoughts on Roses*, by Mr. Rivers, the following hints, which we are sure will prove acceptable to many, very many of



our readers. It is relative to the proper grouping of the lovely family of the Bourbons. Very delicate growers and those of more vigorous habit, if planted on the same bed, as a matter of course, do not assimilate, and have a bad effect. In order to obviate this, the following roses are recommended for their similarity of habit, "*grouping well*:"—A beautiful bed of delicate blush roses may be formed of the following varieties:—Anne Beluze, Madame Nerard, Comtesse de Ressaiguiet, and Reine du Congress. A splendid group of tall crimson Bourbons may be formed with Dupetit Thouars, Le Grenadier, and Julie de Fontenelle. As magnificent crimson roses for a large bed, Mr. R. recommends the following:—Comte de Rambuteau, Dumont de Courset, Gloire de Paris, Oscar Le Clerc, and Souchet. Rosy carmine varieties, are Augustine Lelieur, George Cuvier, Henri le Coq, Lichas, and Marquis de Moyrè. "And now for 'couleur de rose,' last but not least. How profusely, in autumn, are the following varieties covered with their large and finely shaped rosy tinted flowers:—Emilie Courtier, Edouard Desfosses, La Gracieuse, and Madame Marget. Of nearly uniform growth, neither tall nor dwarf, they are the *juste milieu* among Bourbon roses, and ought to have a very large bed devoted to their beauteous selves."

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### Part III.

## REVIEW.



THE FAMILY ECONOMIST. London: Groombridge and Son, Paternoster-row.

WHETHER it arises from a sort of *fellow feeling*, or otherwise, we know not, but we always hail with pleasure every cheap publication whose tendency is good. There are so many of this class which are

the *veriest* *Rash* imaginable, as well as those whose pages abound in *moral poison*, that a vast proportion of the respectable part of the community have a sort of instinctive horror for cheap literature. That there are excellent exceptions we well know, and this little periodical which has just been sent to us, is one of them. Its price is small (one penny); and we are sure that a shilling per month, laid out by benevolent individuals, for a dozen copies, for distribution among the working classes in their immediate neighbourhoods, would be "*a shilling well spent.*"

## QUERIES.



I have this spring grafted several pears on the mountain ash. They appear to have taken; will they go forward, and bear fruit?  
R. S.

At what heat should I keep my pit for growing cucumbers? It is on the tank system. A reply in the next number will oblige  
A NOVICE.

[Seventy-five to eighty degrees.]

Pray can you inform me in your next number, what varieties of the evergreen barberries are hardy enough to withstand the winter of Northumberland?  
I. R.

I have a north-west wall, which I am anxious to cover with plants. A list adapted for such a situation will oblige,  
JAMES PEARCE.

I shall feel obliged if you will inform me how to manage the *Clianthus puniceus*. I have had it seven or eight years, and in that time it has only flowered once. Several of my neighbours have had it for the same length of time, without any better success. Is the *Cobæa scandens* an annual or perennial? I see it in some seed lists among the annuals, in others among the perennials. If the seed was sown now, would it flower this year? Is the *Spiræa prunifolia pleno* an herbaceous plant or a shrub? I see it advertised in the *Midland Florist*, among B. W. Knight's select hardy plants, do you think it would be hardy enough to stand the climate of Northumberland? S. H. I.

I find it very troublesome to procure rods for pea growing, in this part of the country. If you can inform me of a plan to support the plants while growing, you will much oblige,

Near Halifax, Yorkshire.

A COTTAGER.

[After the peas are sown, place a larch or other stake, as thick as a hay-fork shaft and five feet high, at each end of the row, and one in the middle; about six inches from the ground, attach a strong tarred string to one end, and pass it horizontally to the other, giving it a *catch* round the centre stake; have a similar one at the upper part of the stakes, and another in the middle, if the row of peas is long. Bands, about the thickness of the thumb, made of refuse hay, oat straw, &c. must be fastened to the top string, and brought down perpendicularly and made fast to the lower one. These may be from nine to twelve inches asunder. With a little care, this will be found a good substitute for sticks. We have seen kidney beans grown and trained in this manner with excellent effect.]

I shall feel particularly obliged if you, or some of your numerous readers, will give me the names of two or three varieties of grape vine, best adapted for the back wall of a vinery, and only to be forced in spring and autumn. Also mention what quantity of crushed bones may be added to each cubic yard of earth in the vine border. BOURTRIE ROOKE.

[In answer to the foregoing query, I can recommend the following varieties of the grape vine, providing the border be outside the house:—Black Hamburg, Black Esperione, Stillward's Sweet Water (white). If planted inside the house, Black Hamburg, Muscat, Muscadine (white), Black Frontignan, all good and prolific bearers. Respecting the crushed bones, I would not recommend more than an *eighth part*, and those but coarsely crushed.—S. H.]

What is your opinion relative to signing a declaration, when flowers are put up for exhibition, that they are the property and growth of the party showing them. I know several instances where parties have obtained flowers from other quarters, and shown them as their own.

Bury, Lancashire.

I. M.

[If people are so despicably mean and dishonest as to rob a brother florist of his money and credit, if they have no feeling of honour in their breasts, we are sure that *declarations* are of no more use as a check than waste paper. If a florist have the effrontery as well as villany (for we can call it by no milder name) to *stage flowers* that are not his own, he will, doubtless, *perjure* himself by signing *anything*. Such characters should be scouted by every honest man; for he that would defraud his neighbour in the above manner, would also pick his pocket, or rob his garden, if he had an opportunity.]

Some years ago, I was travelling in Norfolk, and was much struck with a beautiful yellow rose, trained against the wall of a cottage. I procured a plant from a nurseryman in my neighbourhood, and have paid every attention possible to it, but have hitherto been unable to obtain a single flower. Can you tell me the reason, and what means I must employ to induce blooming?

*St. Ives.*

A SUBSCRIBER.

I am anxious to grow a few heaths in my greenhouse, and am told that there are always some one or other of this beautiful tribe in flower, during the year. I have searched many books for information, but have been disappointed. A friend, who takes the *Midland Florist*, advised me to apply to you. If not too much trouble, will you give a list of a few sorts, stating the time of the year they are in bloom, and oblige,

MARY S——.

[In compliance with the above, we give the names of a few, and trust it will be useful to many others of our readers, besides our fair correspondent.

*January and February.*—*Ericas*, *gracilis*, *Linnæana*, and *pelucida*

*March and April.*—*Ardens*, *vestita* and *cerinthoides major*.

*May and June.*—*Ventricosa*, *perspicua nana*, and *grandiflora*.

*July and August.*—*Bowieana*, *propendens*, and *prægnans*.

*September and October.*—*Vestita*, *ewerana* and *mutabilis*.

*November and December.*—*Grandinos*, *persoluta* and *Archeria*.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



Being fond of raising seedling florists' flowers, and not seeing an answer to Jane M——'s inquiry as to the proper method of raising roses from seed, I have taken the liberty to forward to you my little experience. In the first place, the hips should be gathered as soon as ripe, from those flowers which have *broad, smooth, and fleshy petals*; then procure a common garden pot, and partly fill it with sand, place in the hips, and fill up with sand; let them remain until the end of March, or early in April, at which time well drain a good sized pot (about a twelve is what I use), and nearly fill it with compost, rub out the seed from the hips, sow thinly, and sift half an inch of the same soil over them; well water, and plunge the pot in an open part of the garden, and never let the seed get dry, for if it do, it will not vegetate *until the following spring*, if at all; but if properly treated as to watering, the

plants will appear in May, and when large enough to handle, they may be potted in sixty pots, well watered, and shaded in a frame for a few days, to establish them. In five or six weeks, they may be planted in a prepared bed, and if properly treated, by August they will be fit to bud, and in all probability the perpetuals will flower next summer. I must impress upon all who wish to succeed, that the hips must never be allowed to get dry, for if they do, they will in all probability never vegetate; and also that the plants will flower much earlier if budded, than when upon their own bottoms, hence the advantage of early budding.

#### A WELLWISHER FROM THE COMMENCEMENT.

In answer to your correspondent, Veritas, who, in the number for March, asks which are the best carnations and picotees, I name the following as about the best picotees:—

**HEAVY-EDGED RED.**—Dickson's Mr. Trahar, Headley's King James.

**INTERMEDIATE-EDGED RED.**—Burroughs's Emma.

**LIGHT-EDGED RED.**—Sharpe's Countess de Grey.

**HEAVY-EDGED PURPLE.**—May's Olivia.

**INTERMEDIATE-EDGED PURPLE.**—Sharp's Agitator.

**LIGHT-EDGED PURPLE.**—Burroughs's Amy, Burroughs's Duke of Newcastle.

**HEAVY-EDGED ROSE.**—Green's Queen Victoria, Headley's Venus, Trahar's Rosalind.

**LIGHT-EDGED ROSE.**—Dickson's Mrs. Trahar.

**YELLOW PICOTEE.**—Barraud's Euphemia, Duchess of Normandy, Martin's Queen Victoria, Hoyles's Topaz.

Camberwell.

I. L.—s.

In reply to Ebor, I beg to say that I have found the following, in favourable seasons, produce a tolerable supply of pollen:—

**Carnations.**—Kay's Omnium Primum (S.B.), Ely's William Caxton (C.B.), Leighton's Bellerophon (P.F.), Pearson's Madame Mara (S.F.), and Maltby's Mrs. Hughes (R.F.)—

**Picotees.**—Ely's Mrs. Horner (R.P.), Mansley's Nulli Secundi and Wood's Princess Alice (P.P.)

Springrove.

JAMES METHAM.

The terms sandy, stiff, or turfy loam, it is hardly possible to explain. I understand by the term loam, a soil of rather a reddish brown colour, friable, and easily worked. If I pare the turf from one of my pastures of this description (which I sometimes do), and allow it to become decomposed, I call it *turfy loam*. If I wish it of a lighter texture, I add a certain proportion of sand, according to the habit of the plants I intend to cultivate in it. This then would be *sandy loam*. On the contrary, if of a more clayey nature than the first-named, it would be *stiff loam*, and almost like some of the lighter kinds of brick earth.

H. S. M.

I see that W. D. asks whether he can grow and flower the *Camellia Japonica* in a cottage window. It will grow well, if carefully attended to, but the buds are extremely apt to drop off, previous to expansion. Cuttings of the single camellia may be struck by putting them in a sandy soil, in September, under a hand-glass. Nurserymen usually strike them in heat. VARRO.

O. P. Q., *Manchester*.—The last edition of *Loudon's Hortus Britannicus* is the best catalogue. *Neill's Fruit, Flower, and Kitchen Garden*, *Macintosh's Practical Gardener*, or the last edition of *Loudon's Encyclopædia of Gardening*.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR MAY.

### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

PERHAPS few seasons have given rise to more complaints than the present one, as to the serious losses sustained by cultivators of the *tulip*. We have many letters by us, stating the almost entire destruction of valuable stocks. It will be worth while for florists to consider whether this may not arise from *over-growing*; planting them year after year in compost more like a manure heap than anything else. Competitors for the various exhibitions—*those who intend to win*, will now give every attention to their flowers. Neat white or green painted sticks should be so placed that with metallic wire, the stems of the four neighbouring *tulips* may be supported by each. This is far better than placing a stick to every flower. We would advise florists to be careful how they tie their blooms up; and to try, after the flower has been fully expanded, whether a small hoop of the same sort of wire, placed at the required height, at the top of a neat stick, to surround the cup of the flower, and sufficiently wide to allow it to expand to half its size, would not be a good plan. We fancy it would be much better than tying them up. We do hope that hybridizing will be attended to. Polyphemus would be a good parent. Cross it with Surpass Catafalque, or *vice versa*. Always keep in mind that it is folly to raise from impure long cups, when it is quite as easy to save seed from good flowers.

*Auriculas*.—As the blooms decay, extract the petal or pip, and give every chance to the advancing seed pods. Seedlings should be carefully shaded, or the crop will be endangered. Sow seed, if not already done.

*Polyanthuses* must at this season be kept from intense heat. If the situation is not naturally shady, it must be made so.

Nothing engenders red spider so soon as drought, and plants, when once affected with this pest, are with difficulty saved.

*Ranunculuses*.—It is a bad plan to loosen the surface soil of the beds containing roots of this very neat and beautiful flower. We recollect one of the most successful growers in the midland counties used to water between the rows of his plants with water from a canal, which was close to his garden; this is a hint never to water with cold spring water, but to fill a large vessel with sufficient for the purpose, and let it be exposed to the sun all day, previous to using.

*Pinks*.—These may be watered with liquid manure, not too strong. If the weather is very hot, a top-dressing of cow manure, reduced to a black unctuous soil, will be found highly beneficial. As it advances, tie the stem to a neat stick.

*Pansies* should be struck from cuttings. Those springing from the side of the plant, when not too large, are the best. Sow seed from the best varieties.

*Dahlias*.—Mr. Edwards's treatment, to which we refer our readers, is given in the present number.

*Carnations and Picotees*.—Sow the seed immediately, either on well prepared beds or in pans, covering slightly. Water as occasion may require. Place sticks to the plants. It is best done when they are potted. Lay traps for earwigs, &c. now, on the principle that prevention is better than cure.

## FLOWER GARDEN.

*Verbenas* may be planted out. Robinson's Defiance is said by some of the best judges to be a very fine scarlet. In selecting for bedding, the habit of the plants should be considered; those of tall and scrambling growth should be avoided. *Petunias*, especially those of rich dark colours, have a very good effect on small beds, either cut on grass, or boxed on gravel; they always have the best effect in masses. Of new *salvias* we have the *S. Gesneroides*, a fine showy sort; and *S. Camertonii*, which does not appear to be quite so fine. A selection of plants well adapted for making a show during the summer months, will be found in the calendar of our last year's number for May. To these may be added *Cuphea platycentra*, *Heliotropium Voltairianum*, a great improvement on our old favourite, *H. Peruvianum*, &c.

*Annuals* should now be up. They will require weeding; and as most people sow their seed much too thick, they must be properly thinned. Place sticks, or neat trellisses, for *Convolvulus major*, *nasturtians*, &c.

*Biennials*, or plants which flower the succeeding season, as *Canterbury bells*, *sweetwilliams*, the different varieties of *dianthus*, &c. may be sown.

The beds of *perennials* ought all to be now in good trim. A succession of these always have a good effect; many people

prefer them to annuals, for embellishment. A few beautiful things for display are the *Gallardia elegans*, *Pentstemon gentianoides vera*, *Pentstemon gigantea*, *Papaver bracteata superba*, *Gladiolus Gandavensis* (splendid), and *Campanula nobelis*.

Many shrubs will now be in flower. These must be kept within bounds by judicious stopping, &c. Rub off shoots from budded briars, &c.

### FRUIT TREES.

Supposing that these have been regularly attended to, little need be done this month. It will be advisable to look over grafted plants, fill up any cracks in the clay, and remove shoots which may be emitted below. The same attention must be directed to plants which have been budded.

Destroy the aphis lanigera, or mealy bug, as it appears. If neglected, from its amazing fecundity, serious difficulty will be encountered in afterwards keeping it down.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

*Broccoli*, *Brussels Sprouts*, *Savoys*, &c.—Put in autumn-sown plants. The Purple Jerusalem Kale is hardy and excellent.

*Beans*.—Get in for successional crops. Johnson's Wonder and Taylor's Thick Windsor are two of the best. Sow Scarlet Runners. A variety with flowers white and scarlet makes a good summer climber. The Negro Major is one of the best dwarf beans grown.

*Cauliflowers*.—Sow on a warm border, for autumn.

*Cress*.—The Golden is a large-leaved yellowish green variety, very good. Sow for succession, as required.

*Carrots*.—The Altringham is large, and the Long Surrey excellent. Thin as soon as possible.

*Cabbages* may be sown for autumn. Amongst the many new sorts, there are few to beat the Improved Nonpareil.

*Celery*.—Towards the latter end of the month, the first planting of early celery may be put in. Do not spare rich compost, decayed leaves, cow manure &c. for the bottom of the trench.

*Lettuce*.—Prick out as wanted. As all crops are done with, manure and dig the ground, &c.

*Radishes*.—The Turnip-rooted are best to sow now. The Black Spanish may be got in for winter use.

*Turnips*.—These come in excellently as successional crops. The Snowball and New Red Stone are excellent.

*Peas*.—Continue to sow for late crops.

*Potatoes*.—Stir the soil between advancing crops, and earth up as requisite.

*Onions*.—An occasional dusting with soot, on damp evenings, has been found highly beneficial to these bulbs. Thin out, and hoe between the rows with small hoes.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## ON THE PROPERTIES AND JUDGING OF TULIPS.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

[Completed from page 150.]

**FLAMED FLOWERS.**—A flamed tulip ought to have a beam, the colour of the feathering, or as near as possible to it, up the centre. A pale beam detracts much from the merits of the flower. The beam ought to throw out branches on each side, the more numerous the better, provided there is the ground colour distinctly seen between each. The beam ought never to come out at the top of the petal, but stop short before reaching it, and taper off in small branches into the feather, showing the ground colour between the feather and the top of the beam. The inside should be particularly examined, to see that it corresponds with the outside in all its various markings, as it frequently happens that the colour from the beam runs into the white, and scarcely any but the self-colour is seen. The more work, or rather pencilling, on the outside and inside, the better, if the colours are distinct. Great care must be taken to see that the distinct pencillings and colour in the inside run to the bottom of the petal, as it too often happens that this portion is very selfy. The previous remarks on the colour of the feather are also applicable to this case. The colour is a secondary consideration, excepting when equal in other points.

In judging pans of six blooms, which ought to consist of three feathered and three flamed flowers, one in each class, each flower ought to be carefully examined, comparing feathered bizarre with feathered

bizarre, and the same with the remainder; and should the pans be equal, that is, each competitor excel in three varieties, then the pan which has the majority of feathered ones to be declared the winner. The practice of putting a self in each pan is quite out of place: breeders, or selfs, ought to be shown separately. The breeder pans should have an equal number of each class, all distinct varieties: if more than one of each variety, the pan to be disqualified.

**BREEDERS.**—As breeders are now generally shown, for the encouragement of new varieties, and liberal prizes are awarded to them, I will give a few directions as to what ought to guide the judges. In the first place, form, size, and bloom is the *sine qua non*, or in other words, indispensable. The petals and base ought to possess the same properties as laid down for the broken flowers. Some florists are inclined to think that some breeders shorten in the cup when they break. This is rarely the case, and I am of opinion that the contrast of colours, when the tulip is broken, deceives the eye, and makes it appear much shorter than when only of one colour. The *ground colour of breeders* should only be taken into consideration when the points are equal; for I find that the most handsome breeders, as respects colour, generally break into worthless varieties, whilst those whose colours do not at all attract the eye, generally break into good varieties. I must not be understood to despise the fine-coloured breeders. Far from that; I am, and have been for a very great number of years, passionately fond of them, and I write from personal experience as to their breaking. In illustration, I will state, two years ago, I bloomed a seedling raised from Catafalque, and from its beautiful form and proportions, I named it "Masterpiece." It was what I should term a snuff-coloured breeder. Last year it broke into colour, and is far brighter in the ground than San Joe, and the colour of the feathering is black. The editor had a frozen petal of it sent to him, and he liked it much. I have also

found those byblœmens which are of a lilac colour break into much darker feather than those of a dark reddish purple; and in some instances rose breeders of a byblœmen tint have broken into nearly a scarlet, and some of a high cherry colour break into what cannot be classed either as roses or byblœmens. There is a great mistake current amongst tulip fanciers, that one breeder can break into four or five varieties, and consequently a name is given to each one. This is the reason we have so many aliases. Each breeder can break only into one variety; that is, it either will break into a feathered variety or a flamed one; and even if it should break feathered, there is a probability that the next year it may come flamed, and *vice versa*, a flamed one may come the next season feathered.

One thing I have omitted to notice, and that is grown rents in the petals. This is certainly a defect, but not so great as to disqualify the pan or the flower from winning. The allowance to be made will depend upon its other qualities, compared with the one placed in competition with it. A flower that has had seven petals, one of which has been extracted, ought not to be allowed to win in the class; and whether it would disqualify a pan, is a matter to be considered. I think that the flower ought only to be considered as beaten by the one in the same class, thus giving the competing pan one point, which is a very great advantage in a pan of six blooms. I would also remark, that there ought not to be breeder pans of six flowers, two in each class, as it might possibly happen that two pans excelled in three flowers, and then it would be a question of taste with the judges as to which pan should be the winner. A matter of such moment should not be left to taste. If the pans were to consist of either three, seven, or nine, there would, of course be a majority of winning flowers in some pan or other; and as the pans could not consist of an equal number in each class, let the exhibiter have the option of putting three bizzarres, three byblœmens, or three roses, to make up the required number.

HINTS ON HYBRIDIZING OR CROSS-BREEDING  
FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, ETC.

BY THE EDITOR.

## No. II.

IF the readers of the *Midland Florist* have carefully studied our last article, they will be acquainted with the meaning of the various terms we may use, and will not now be puzzled with the words *anther*, *pollen* or *farina*, *stigma*, &c. As a matter of course, the stigmas vary much in different plants. In the carnation and picotee they protrude like a pair of horns; in many double flowers they are not very conspicuous; and if seed is wanted, those varieties which have the stigmas well developed, are best to impregnate, provided the properties of the flower are otherwise very good. Seed is seldom obtained from carnations that are tied up and shaded, as for exhibition. It appears that if carnation seed is to be had without manual impregnation (that is, the grower or florist who makes the experiment applying the farina himself), nature must have fair play. Old John Hufton, of Shipley, Derbyshire, who, twenty years ago, was a great raiser of seedlings, used to allow his carnations intended for seed to carry the greater part of their lateral or side buds, which are always removed when flowers are training for exhibition; the main flower stem was tied up, the others were allowed to hang down, and without knowing anything about artificial impregnation, or cross-breeding, the old man was very fortunate in his seedlings. Now the reason was this: these horns, or stigmas, if the flower was tied erect, would stand far above the anthers, or male organs, which would be found lower down, amongst the petals of the flower, and of course, when the farina was ready, it would be in a bad position to reach them. On the other hand, if the blooms were allowed to hang down, untied and unmolested, they would swing in the breeze, and consequently, the stigmas being

lowest, as the anthers burst, the farina would naturally fall on them, and thus complete the fructification. But this matter is not now left to chance; the patient, persevering, enthusiastic florist, whether he be *gentle or simple* (as Meg Merrilies has it), adopts a more certain course of procuring good flowers; he fixes on two varieties, of excellent properties; he might, for instance, select Ely's Lady Ely, though we believe it is a sort that does not yield much farina, but we name it as a good sort, and if possible, it ought to be one of the parents, in raising rose flakes, though it is very likely that the progeny might sport into all the classes. This he crosses with some other favourite sort. If he knows what he is about, he will not select those with dumpy short pods, like Dalton's Lancashire Lass; neither will he choose a sort with the white of inferior character, or with the petals too narrow, or the edges rough; but on the contrary, endeavour to obtain those which have most good properties to recommend them. He will carefully examine the anthers from day to day, and when they are ready, which will be perceived by the dust, or farina, being apparent, he will extract them with a very small pair of tweezers, similar in form to those which are used for *dressing* or arranging the petals of the carnation, for exhibition, but much smaller; having carefully secured the anther with the point of these nippers, he very lightly rubs it on the stigmas, or *horns*, so that the farina may adhere to them. Some will say, "*Oh, this is a great deal of trouble!*" but we say, it is very little, when set about in a proper manner; and then, look at the *result*,—the much greater chance of producing fine flowers, and the consequent *honour* as well as *profit*. We recollect, some years ago, receiving a letter or two on this subject, from a Mr. Cox, of Bermondsey, near London. He was then, and probably is now, an enthusiastic raiser of carnations, and was very particular as to the cross-impregnation of the varieties from which he saved seed. There are also many amateurs,

in various parts of the country, who are most zealously pursuing this interesting branch of floriculture.

Pinks will soon be in bloom, and must be managed in the same way. We would strongly advise all growers to examine for themselves, and try the experiment, when we shall soon have an improvement in this very interesting and favourite flower. Seed from rose-petalled, or those which have smooth edges, and take those whose petals are well formed and thick, with good pod and habit, in preference to those with small narrow petals, although they may be large flowers. Hand's Pilot, Cant's Criterion, Creed's President, Duke of Northumberland, Huntsman, Purity, &c. would be good sorts to begin with.

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### AUTUMN AND WINTER TREATMENT OF THE CARNATION AND PICOTEE.

BEING a great admirer of these handsome flowers, and there being some difficulty in preserving them through the winter months, if the following account of the method which I pursue, be worthy a place in the *Midland Florist*, it is at your service.

There being several ways of managing the carnation, I practice the following:—Having layered the plants early in July, if ready, as soon as they are sufficiently rooted, remove them into sixty-sized pots for one plant, and forty-eights for two; place plenty of crocks in the bottom of the pots, then take the layers from the parent plants, being particular in cutting them at the joint below where they are rooted. Having potted the plants, give them plenty of water, and put them into the frame till they are well established; then remove them out for three or four weeks, if the weather permit. In preparing their winter quarters, place the frame twelve to fifteen inches above the level of the ground, and make the sides air-tight; then put a sheet of zinc on the

ground, under the frame, which will carry off all the water that escapes from the plants; next erect a framework or stage, of narrow boards, on which to place the pots, leaving the back and front of the frame open, whereby there is a thorough current of air among the plants, which gives them a very healthy appearance; close the back and front in severe frost, with two boards made to slide in at the bottom of the frame. Never allow the sun to shine on the plants directly after a frosty night, for if it do not hurt them it often cracks the glass. The plants require very little water through the winter; be particular that no water remain on or about them, for if frost come, it kills them or engenders disease.

If the reader be a cultivator or amateur, by following this method of treatment, he will be fully compensated for the trouble and expense.

I. L—s.

Camberwell.

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## WEeping TREES, ADAPTED FOR LAWNS, ETC.

BY THE EDITOR.

[Continued from page 129.]

### THE BIRCH.

THE common weeping variety is singularly ornamental, its pendent trusses waving with the breeze. This variety does not generally assume its peculiar habit till it has attained to some size; but amongst a bed of seedlings, though all at the time are upright, still those that will droop may be easily ascertained, even by a *blind man*.

If the young shoots are passed between the finger and thumb, some will be perceived to be extremely rough, like *sand paper*: these rough shoots will become pendent plants as they age, whilst the smooth ones will take the general character. We have a plant of a pretty new variety, which is pendent when

quite young, and has to be inarched on tall stocks. This appears likely to make a most elegant tree. Added to these, we have the undermentioned, which, though not, strictly speaking, pendulous, still have a very graceful drooping habit, and when worked standard high, are very ornamental. We allude to

*The Nettle-leaved Birch.* (*Betula urticifolia*.)—And

*The Cut-leaved Birch.* (*Betula laciniata*.)—The foliage of the latter is peculiarly elegant, and well adapted for imitation, by those who are in the habit of working patterns of foliage.

## THE BEST FRUIT TREES FOR SMALL GARDENS.

BY THE EDITOR.

[Continued from page 131.]

HAVING disposed of the small fruits, we shall now offer a little advice on the more important varieties, and begin with the apple. Nothing, we imagine, is more foolish than to plant standard apple, pear, or plum trees in small gardens. We see many instances in our own neighbourhood, where trees, twenty or thirty years planted, have completely covered the space, and rendered the well-being of everything else impossible. As a nurseryman, we are glad to sell our trees, but we cannot advise those who have small allotments in the neighbourhood of large towns, to plant such a number, that it will be requisite to cut down one-half of them just when they are coming to their best.

*The Keswick Codlin, or Westmoreland Pippin*, has been much planted in this neighbourhood. It is an early bearer, and very fruitful; the apples, however, are light, and fall much in baking. Still it is considered a profitable apple, one year with another.

*The Hawthorn Dean*, or, as it is sometimes called, the *White Apple*, is a very fine early sort, large in size, good in quality, and bearing remarkably well. In low damp situations, it is very apt to canker, but when in a suitable place, it is excellent.



*The Manx Codlin* is a nice early apple, very handsome, and much esteemed; it is also of very pretty habit, and when in flower, from the circumstance of the outside of the petals being deep crimson, it is very attractive and ornamental.

To succeed the above,

*Spencer's Favourite* is first-rate. Of beautiful form (we should call it a *model apple*), deep yellow, large, and a very excellent bearer. The tree is hardy, of erect habit, and ought to be extensively grown.

*Greenup's Pippin* is also a most beautiful sort, cream-coloured when ripe, and deep red next the sun; attains a large size, is rather drooping in its habit, of free growth, and very productive.

*New Bess Pool*.—This variety is an improvement on our old favourite, the Bess Pool, from the circumstance of its early bearing, in comparison with its parent. Our fruit of this sort, during the past season, was *superb*, if such a term is applicable to apples. They are large, fine in form, and of a dark reddish crimson, with broad streaks of a darker shade. The tree is of fine habit, and not disposed to canker.

*Blenheim Orange, or Woodstock Pippin*.—A first-rate fruit, of strong growth, and as the tree ages, productive. A good crop is generally obtained every alternate year. From its excellent qualities, it always commands a high price in the market. It is very large, and of excellent flavour.

*Court Pendu Plat, or Wollaton Pippin*.—This is a French apple, and a very excellent one too; we should say one of the very best for a small garden, being productive, handsome, keeping well, and of good quality. It is well adapted for culinary purposes, and likewise a very good table fruit.

The previously enumerated varieties are easily attainable. In addition, as eating apples, we would recommend the following:—

*The Ribston Pippin*.—Well known as one of the best. It is apt to canker, but wherever there is space for a dozen varieties, it should make one.

*Coe's Golden Drop*.—This is not a very large apple, but it makes up for size, by a profusion of fruit of very excellent flavour.

*Kerry Pippin*.—A most excellent and prolific sort, in season early in the autumn. It is handsome, and a great bearer.

All these sorts should be grown, as bushes they perhaps give the least trouble. If the artizan's garden is a square, these bushes will be best planted at the angles of the paths, in each inner corner.

If a more extensive collection is required, the following may be added, for culinary purposes :—

*Brabant Belle Fleur*.—Large, handsome, fine quality, and will keep late in the spring.

*Alexander*.—Very handsome and large. In season during the autumn.

*Gravenstein*.—Also an autumnal fruit of fine quality, large and handsome.

*Moss's Incomparable*.—A good bearer and large; valuable for its late keeping. We have often seen it fresh and good when Keswick Codlins of the next year have been ready.

*Normanton Wonder, or Dumelow's Seedling*.—Handsome shape, beautiful in colour, very heavy, keeps remarkably well, and of free growth. The tree requires keeping well thinned of branches.

*Pike's Pearmain*.—Much cultivated in this neighbourhood; of erect growth, the fruit red and yellow, very productive, of medium size and good shape.

For table, we may add,

*Kiddleston Pippin*.—A good bearer, yellow, and of fine flavour.

*Margil*.—A most excellent sort, possesses the flavour of the Ribston in a great degree.

*Pitmaston Russet Nonpareil*.—Of large size for this class of apples, very juicy, and of fine flavour.

## HINTS ON SHOWING PANSIES IN CLASSES.

It has been my opinion for some time, that exhibiting in the above mode is the only way to give satisfaction to competitors, as well as to do justice to the flowers themselves; for I imagine that under the present system, it is very difficult for judges to come to a proper decision as to their merits. I can plainly see that flowers having yellow grounds or body colour, take the lead, not only in Dumfermline, but also in Glasgow, Falkirk, &c. This I think unfair; for, with equally good properties, we pay as much for light-ground flowers and selfs, as for the above-named class. I see that some of your English cultivators are sending out a great majority of *yellow-bodied pansies*. I would request all pansy growers to remark the stands, and I shall be much mistaken if they do

not find two *yellows* for one of any other colour shown. I would suggest, that at exhibitions, they should be divided into five classes, namely,

Yellow or orange ground, belted or edged.

Yellow or orange selfs.

White ground, belted or edged.

White selfs.

Dark selfs.

By this arrangement, each class of flowers would compete separately, and thus all favouritism would be avoided. When yellow and white flowers are pitted against each other, their properties may be equal, and the die is cast by the judge exclaiming, "Oh, I prefer yellow-ground flowers!" This decision might be reversed by another having a fancy for light grounds. Now I contend that in judging, nothing ought to be left to *fancy or caprice*; and if my few remarks elicit the opinions of other growers, I shall be glad.

I. M.

*Dumfermline.*

## Part II.

### NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

#### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

##### PANSIES.

**PRIVATEER** (Thompson).—A most excellent flower, large, round, and smooth; the ground colour is yellow, with a bold eye; the top petals are deep marone, with rather a purple tinge; and the belt which encircles the lower petals is similar in colour.

**EXAMPLE** (Turner, of Chalvey).—This is also a yellow-ground flower, of excellent proportions, and very attractive; the belt surrounding the lower petals is of moderate width, and the top petals are bronzy purple.

**D'ISRAELI (Hunt).**—More perfect in form than Rainbow, though in somewhat similar style; a fine sort.—First-class certificates were awarded to each of the above flowers, at the Royal South London show.

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**AURICULA.—DR. HORNER (Dickson).**—This is a very fine grey-edged variety, of first-rate quality, exhibited, we believe, for the first time, on the 18th of April, at a special meeting of the London Horticultural Society.

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## TREES.

**SOPHORA PENDULA.** (*The Weeping Sophora.*)—Whoever is fond of beautiful graceful forms, ought to procure this very handsome tree. The leaves are of a deep shining green, somewhat like the ash; the branches are also green, and very slender and pendent. It is grafted or inarched, standard high, on the common sophora.

A tree of a contrary character, and now well known in the nurseries is **CRATÆGUS STRUCTA** (*The Upright Thorn*). It grows very erect, after the manner of a Lombardy poplar, at the same time full of foliage, and is well worth notice where such trees are desirable.

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## SHRUBS.

**AMYGDALUS NANUS ALBA.** (*The Dwarf White Almond.*)—This is altogether different from the Siberian, which also bears white flowers; they are produced in profusion; and either on its own root, or grafted on the plum stock, or single white almond, it is very interesting and pretty.

**HARDY OLIVE.**—This is a very neat evergreen, which, most likely, will not reach a very great height in this country. It is compact in its growth, with medium-sized dark green leaves. As an addition to our evergreens that will withstand the winter, it will be valuable.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

**HELIOTROPIUM TRIOMPHE DE LEIGH.**—This is a very fine new Continental variety. The flowers are produced in immense clusters. It is superlatively fragrant, and admirably adapted for growing in the open border during summer. Every one knows how refreshing the scent of such plants are in bouquets or nosegays.

**LOTHOSPERMUM CLIFTONII.**—A climbing plant of considerable beauty. The flowers are produced in great quantities, and are of a very lively pink. It is well worthy of attention.

**CINERARIAS.**—The following have received first-class certificates of excellence; and as a matter of course, having been seen by some of the best judges in the kingdom, they may be depended on:—

*Annette* (Bruce).—Bright blue, very beautiful.

*Satellite* (Atlee).—Clear and striking crimson.

*Duchess of Sutherland* (Ivery).—White, tipped with lilac.

## HARDY PERENNIAL PLANTS.

WE have several times noticed new and handsome phloxes. There are few plants so beautiful, forming massive heads of bloom, and some one or other of the varieties being in flower from the first break of spring to the period when frost puts an end to their beauty. The following are excellent:—

*Depressa.*—Flowers bright rose, of good shape, dwarf and compact in habit, and foliage very good. It is constantly in flower, and is supposed to be a "cross" between *Drummondii* and some other hardy variety.

*Imbricata.*—This is singular, from its approximation to a double flower, containing seven or eight petals. The centre of each flower is bright carmine, shading off to pure white on the margin. It is also of very dwarf and compact habit, and will, doubtless, be a great favourite.

*Imperialis.*—The flowers are very round, pure white, mottled and striped with lilac, very beautiful.

*Beauty.*—White, with a delicate band of rose colour round the eye.

## VEGETABLES.

**THE GRANTHAM WHITE POTATO.**—This was raised from seed at the same time, and by the same person (Mr. Yeomans), as the Flour-ball. It is a late potato, of large size, smooth or shallow eye, very white inside, extremely mealy and productive. Its only drawback is its very robust growth, and though perhaps not so well adapted for small gardens, yet, from its excellent flavour and keeping, it will, doubtless, prove a valuable acquisition.

**SHILLING'S NEW RED SPECKLED FRENCH BEAN.**—This valuable sort does not rise so high as the Scarlet Runner, and is, therefore, desirable where long rods cannot easily be obtained. The seed is similar in colour to the Chinese Dwarf, or, as some call it, from its delicate marking, "The Robin's Egg." It bears abundantly and for a long time in succession, and is smooth, with long succulent pods.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## • THE CULTURE OF IXIAS.

I BEG to offer the following observations on the culture of the *Ixia*:—Build a small brick pit the length you want, on a south aspect, in as dry a situation as possible, about three feet deep by about three feet wide; pave at the bottom with tiles with holes, similar to that of a flower-pot; run a draining pipe under them, so as to take the water off, if any. After the bed is well drained in the above manner, put in the pit two feet of compost, composed of half loam and half leaf-mould, with half a barrow of white sand added to every five barrowsful. Plant your

ixias in December, or, if you can keep them dry from shooting, the beginning of February is better, for they require less attention. Cover the pit either with glass or hurdles, in case of frost; if with hurdles, it is necessary there should be some litter thrown over, but should be uncovered day and night when there is no frost. By this method I never fail in having a fine bloom every year.

Put a little sand at the bottom of each bulb. The distance they should be planted between the rows is about nine inches, and three from bulb to bulb, still observing that they must have as much air as possible.

This is the manner I have succeeded for several years, and well adapted for the climate in all parts of England.

R. L.

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### MR. FORTUNE'S MISSION TO CHINA, IN SEARCH OF PLANTS.

AFTER getting together a considerable number of plants and seeds, an opportunity offered of visiting Shanghai. That port had not yet been formally opened, and the chances of getting there were few, and not to be neglected. I was therefore glad of the opportunity, and sailed for the Yang-tse-Kiang on the 13th of November. As we approached Shanghai, we seemed to have got into a new country. The mountainous scenery had entirely disappeared, and even from the top of our highest mast there was not a hill seen to bound the distant horizon—all in view was one flat level plain. This is what is called the valley of the Yang-tse-Kiang, and is the great northern Nankin cotton district. The land is a rich deep loam, and is without doubt, the finest in China, if not in the world. In a country like this, which is everywhere flat and cultivated, it was not expected that I could find many wild plants. Two, however, were met with, which have since attracted a consider-

able share of notice in England. I allude to *Cryptomera japonica* and *Anemone japonica*. The latter was found, when in full flower, amongst the graves of the Chinese, which are round the ramparts of the city. It blooms in November, when other flowers have gone by, and is a simple and beautiful ornament to the last resting-places of the dead. If the number of wild flowers in this district was few, they were well made up by those which I afterwards found in gardens and nurseries. From the number of the flower-shops in the city, which at this season were filled with chrysanthemums, I was quite certain that there must be somewhere in the vicinity nurseries for their cultivation, but the great difficulty was to find them out. The Chinese here, who knew little or nothing of us except as their conquerors, were frightened and jealous, and would give no information on the subject. They always suspected that I had some other object in view than simply collecting the plants of the country. At that time I could not speak a word of the language; and my servant, who was brought up from the province of Canton, was equally at fault, so that everything was up-hill work with us. However, by examining every hole and corner of the city and suburbs, and sometimes getting the boys, who were less jealous than the rest, to assist us, we discovered several nurseries, which contained large collections of plants, many of which were quite new and very ornamental. I was also much assisted by H.M. consul, Captain Balfour, who was always ready and willing to aid me in my pursuits. Amongst other things, a very valuable collection of tree pæonies was obtained at this time. It was now the depth of winter, and as vegetation was leafless, it was impossible to make anything like a complete collection until the following year, when the plants would be covered with leaves and flowers. I therefore packed up the things which I had already secured, and sailed for Ningpo, on my way to the south. Here I had the same difficulties to encounter as at Shanghae, owing



to the jealousy of the Chinese. Ultimately, however, I discovered several mandarin's gardens and nurseries, from which I made additions to my collections. All these things were of course out of flower, and some of them leafless, at this season of the year; but many of them proved most remarkable plants. Here, as at most other places, I made many inquiries after the supposed yellow camellia, and offered ten dollars to any Chinaman who would bring me one. Anything can be had in China for dollars! and it was not long before two plants were brought to me, one of which was said to be light yellow, and the other as deep as the double yellow rose. Both had buds upon them, but neither were in flower. I felt quite certain that the Chinaman was deceiving me, and it seemed so foolish to pay such a sum for a plant which I would, in all probability, throw away afterwards, and yet I could not lose the chance, slight as it was, of possessing the yellow camellia. Moreover there was a written label stuck in each pot, both of which were old, and apparently the labels and writing had been there for some years. At last we compromised the matter; I agreed to pay half the money down, and the other half after the plants had flowered. On these conditions I got the camellias, and took them with me to Hong Kong. It is almost needless to say that when they flowered nothing was yellow about them but the stamens, for they were both semi-double worthless kinds.

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We see that Messrs. Standish and Noble, amongst other new plants, which they have on sale from China, mention the *ROSA ANEMONEFLORA*, exactly the shape of a double anemone, or Warratah Camellia. The flowers are a delicate blush, in clusters; the leaflets long and narrow, of a fine glaucous green. We are quite sure many of our readers will be glad to possess this very pretty and novel variety.

**THE TREE PÆONY.** (*Pæony Moutan*).—Many of our readers do not know this very splendid flowering shrub, with large double blooms, as big as the crown of a man's hat. It is a native of China, and for a long period was the only sort cultivated in England. After a time, *P. moutan*, *P. Banksia*, *P. papavaracea*, and *P. rosea* became tolerably well known, though even now, a small plant will cost from two shillings and sixpence to two pounds. The continental growers, from the facility with which they obtain seed, have of late years raised many new and fine sorts; and we are astonished to learn that M. Modeste Guerin, of Paris, cultivates at least forty varieties of this very beautiful shrub. Latterly, Mr. Fortune has introduced a number of others from China. We believe only one has yet bloomed in England, unless some have done so this spring. They are very hardy, but have a most singular precocity, throwing out their buds so early, that in many instances they get cut off by our late spring frosts. In consequence of this tendency, the shady part of a shrubbery, or a border with a north-east aspect, is the most suitable situation for them; by this means, their propensity to bloom early is in some measure checked.

**ON PRODUCING HYDRANGEAS WITH BLUE FLOWERS.**  
—The hydrangea, when well grown, is a most beautiful plant, with its large head of rose-coloured flowers; and when these are changed, by a peculiar system of cultivation, to a most intense blue, they become still more attractive. As there is a little mystery attached to the accomplishment of this desirable object, we will translate, for the benefit of our readers, the following description, from the *Revue Horticole*. It is by Monsieur Bereau; and as similar soil is, no doubt, to be found in many places in England, we hope that those of our readers who are really fond of a magnificent flowering shrub, will try the experiment. We give M. Bereau's own words. He says, "on entering the service of the Marquis de Nicolay, in

1845, one of my first cares was to find on his estate some peat earth, most suitable for my plants. After some trouble, I found in the park what appeared to me to be the very thing. In it there were many small stones. Having broken some of these, I found in them traces of iron. Being most anxious to have some large masses of hydrangeas, the thought struck me that this soil might have the desired effect on the colour of these flowers. In preparing my beds for these plants, in March, 1846, I removed the soil to the depth of two feet, and replaced it with the before-mentioned peat earth, in which I planted my hydrangeas. In the month of July following, I had the satisfaction of seeing them covered with flowers of the most brilliant blue. Before making known my success, I determined to wait the result of another season. My expectations were not disappointed, for the second year they were equally beautiful, and if possible of a deeper colour."

**POLYANTHUSES.**—The continental growers, the florists of France and Belgium, do not admire our polyanthuses by any means. They say that they are too much alike; and an eminent grower at Antwerp told us some short time ago, that our flowers of this class were "*all arrant humbuggery*;" rather a singular as well as an ungrammatical expression. They like polyanthuses of the most singular colours—no matter what shape—the more grotesque, the more unlike anything else in the world, the more they are esteemed. We have two of their varieties now, which as border flowers are very pretty; the one is Multicolor pleno, a very double-edged sort, purple, margined with yellow; and the other is Triomphe de Gand. This last has the calyx of the flower in a *morphological* state of enlargement; in fact, it is somewhat difficult to tell whether it is the calyx or the flower, being green, striped and blotched with dark red; and when the truss has fairly risen, the pips, which are of a dull red, are extracted, and the

singular calyx is allowed to grow, and is the most esteemed part of the plant. We recollect, when a boy, purchasing a *blue polyanthus*; this we have lost sight of, till about a month ago. We purchased a few plants, and we really think it would be worth while to endeavour to raise, by cross-breeding, some polyanthuses of good properties as to shape, eye, lacing, &c. with a different ground colour to those we have at present in cultivation. We have black, or nearly so, chocolate, and red of various shades, why may we not have deep purple grounds, edged with yellow, or blue, in the same style? We hold colour to be of the least importance, because the "*custom of a country*" appears to rule absolutely in this matter, and what is admired in one country may be despised in another. This is why we have advocated a red class to be established for tulips, and also prizes to be awarded for yellow picotees; for we always hold, that "*that which is most neglected needs most help*;" and if encouragement is only held out, "flowers will improve as well as men." We know that the occupiers of small gardens might do much in this matter, and we can only say, that we shall be happy to give a good price to any one for novelties in this or any other class of flowers. We shall have something more to say on the *polyanthus of the Continent*, in a short period. We beg our readers to take care, in the meantime, of all those polyanthuses which have formed heads of seed, for by observation, selection, hybridizing, &c. very much may be done.

ON GRAFTING THE ACACIA. BY JOHN BREWSTER.—  
I have often lamented to see the dwarf, delicate, but still beautiful species of acacia struggling for life among their more hardy and robust brethren, and especially when the desirable object of placing them in a situation calculated to show their humble beauties to advantage, and impart to them a more hardy and robust constitution, is so easily obtained by grafting. This operation may be performed in almost

any situation. Perhaps the best stock would be *Acacia affinis*, owing to its rapid growth, and to its being hardier than any of the rest. I have known this species grown out of doors (from seed) to the height of seventeen or twenty feet, in three years! What a magnificent object, a tree twenty feet high, grafted with perhaps fifteen or twenty species, including *A. pulchella*, *A. diffusa*, *A. cyclops*, &c. would be! The great diversity of their splendid foliage, intermixed with their beautiful flowers, would form an object truly grand. By choosing a strong stock, and planting it out of doors in the early part of May, and then, as soon as it had taken root, grafting it, cutting it down to within a few eyes of each graft; or, if it can be conveniently done, inarching it, a fine tree would be formed in a very short time. The scions may be put on of almost any size, even a large plant. Smaller plants may be grafted or inarched either in the stove or greenhouse. The plants that are grafted out of doors I would recommend to be potted in the autumn, in order to give them a little protection in winter; again planting them out in spring; and by continuing this system for two or three years, the grafts will become fairly established, when they may be left out all winter, with a good covering of mats in frosty weather. If the above hints be thought worthy the attention of any of the numerous cultivators of this beautiful genus, I will yet hope to see the pendulous, dwarf, and delicate species attain the first place as ornamental plants, which they so richly merit, both in the greenhouse and pleasure ground.—*Loudon's Magazine*.

**PANSIES.**—Mr. Turner, of Chalvey, near Windsor, in an excellent article on the cultivation of the above popular flower, in the *Florist*, says, "Pansies will grow in any soil, but thrive best in a good mellow sandy loam, made tolerably rich with good rotten manure and leaf mould; whatever the soil may be naturally, add that which will bring it nearest to the

above. For instance, if the soil is a close adhesive loam, mix in plenty of a light nature, with coarse sand. Good stiff loam may be added to great advantage, if the soil is light, the pansy being a plant that cannot stand drought, such as would be experienced with light soil, in dry weather. In choosing a situation, it is most desirable to select one free from the sun for a few hours, in the hottest part of the day; this will cause the blooms to keep their colour a much longer time. If large blooms are required for exhibition, the distance from plant to plant should be fifteen inches, for strong growing varieties. Ten inches will be sufficient for those of an opposite character, and that seldom cover but little space. Exquisite, Ariadne, and Miss Tarrant are of this class, and should be planted in a separate bed, otherwise such rude-growing kinds as Mary Jane, Rainbow, and others, will run over them. Two-thirds of the distance above-named will be sufficient, if grown for effect in the garden. Pluck off any flowers that may appear before the plants are established in the ground."

**STRIKING PANSY CUTTINGS.**—For autumn, winter, and spring striking, we make use of pots; pressing the cuttings firmly and closely to the edge, using sandy soil, with plenty of drainage: but for summer propagation, we prefer a shady border, which should be well drained and prepared so that worms cannot disturb the cuttings. They should be protected from heavy rain and from exposure to the sun; but if they are shaded like most other cuttings, they will most assuredly damp off. All depends on the situation, which should be light, without sun. Another difficulty to contend with at this time, arises from harsh, drying winds. We use hand-lights and small frames, so that both heavy rain and wind can be effectually kept from them. However, not an hour should be lost in keeping them quite open, in favourable weather.

**LAWs OF GARDENS.**—The few following remarks may prove beneficial to some of our readers, and, perchance, save them many useless and unpleasant differences, either as landlords or outgoing and incoming tenants. Annual roots and flowers planted in a garden, may be removed by any tenant, and so may young fruit trees and shrubs in the garden or nursery of a person to whom the same has been let for the purpose of sale or trade.—(2 *East's Reports*, p. 88.) But unless a garden, or orchard, or other land, has been so let as nursery ground, no tenant can, as between him and the landlord, remove any flower, root, tree, or shrub, not strictly annual, or not usually taken up at the one season of the year and replanted at another; and if, without authority, he should remove the same, he would be liable to an action for the waste. And if a tenant, of any description, has made strawberry beds, he cannot, either before or at the expiration of his tenancy, and whilst they are likely to continue productive, remove or destroy the same, without being liable to an action for the injury to the landlord or succeeding tenant.—*Campbell's Reports*, p. 227.

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### Part III.

## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.

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A FRIEND of ours has several times said to us that we ought not to notice our contemporaries so much, that in truth it is as good as an advertisement to them. The fact is, that if it is not so, we wish it to be. We always feel happy in introducing our *floricultural friends* to our readers, and if it increase their sale and consequent utility, so much the better; we have no jealous fears about our own little work,

and we are quite sure that those who read the *Midland Florist* will, if they can afford it, also purchase others; and if they cannot, we trust we shall be enabled, without giving offence, to extract those things which we believe to be most entertaining and useful to those to whom the *Midland Florist* is devoted. We sometimes do not agree with every thing we find written, as will be seen below; still, our criticisms are made with the best intentions, our only object being the advancement of the pursuit we advocate, and the instruction of those who love it as much we do.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN AND FRUITIST.—The embellishments are, *Ophirée*, a singular salmon and buff Noisette rose. *Epimedium Musschianum* (Mussch's Barrenwort), an herbaceous perennial plant, with singularly-shaped white flowers. We have grown it some years, and have always admired its neat foliage and pretty style of growth; it is, however, nothing like so handsome as *E. violacea*, noticed in another page. *Ageratum Mexicanum* is perennial, but half hardy, and is used more particularly for planting in masses, in summer. It is a capital thing for bouquets, as it yields an amazing number of flowers, which are pale bluish lilac, or slate colour, and produced in dense tufts, at the end of every shoot. The other embellishment is *Convolvulus brionifolia* (Briony-leaved Convolvulus), rather pretty; but we have not much love for the perennials of this family; they are constantly showing themselves where they are not wanted, and are as difficult to get rid of as the large white bindweed of our hedges, which most of us know, to our mortification. We said that we occasionally disagreed with various things that are advanced, and we think that if Mr. Maund's Black Naples Currant is correct, he will find it much superior in flavour to the Grape. We have always found it sweeter. This portion of the work is very useful, and the woodcuts of the fruits are highly creditable.



**THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL.**—Fancy geraniums are becoming more fashionable, and here is a very pretty variety, called *Ivery's Queen Adelaide*, figured and described. It is of better shape than usual, and a delicate pink, with conspicuous white centre, the upper petals blotched and feathered with marone. It is very compact in habit, flowering most profusely. The number contains several useful papers, on the orange, chrysanthemum, shading, &c.

**THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.**—This work is very much improved, and is embellished with a beautiful figure of *Tritonia aurea* (Golden Tritonia), hardy, or nearly so. There is a very good list or synopsis of dahlias, and a most interesting paper on taking *portraits* of flowers, &c. by the *photogenic process*, from which we hope to obtain a few hints. In fact, it is one of the best numbers we have lately seen.

**THE FLORIST.**—We have two embellishments this month. The *Comtesse de Rambuteau*, a hybrid perpetual rose, and the moss rose, *Laneii*, noticed in our last number, which, if as beautiful as its portrait, is well worth growing. The contents are, The most fitting Composts for the Erica and Epacris. On various Gloxinias. Hybrid Perpetual Roses, and their blooming in Autumn, by Mr. Dobson, who, like ourselves, is glad of information, come from what source it may. The Hollyhock, by Mr. Chater. Blinds and Shades for Greenhouses. We have lately seen material for this purpose, manufactured at Nottingham, like very coarse and strong lace, well adapted for covering fruit trees, frames, &c. It may be purchased very cheap, and we believe has been in great demand, for the above purposes. On the Properties and judging Tulips, by Mr. Slater, &c.

**THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE.**—Amongst many good articles is one on the Rhododendron and its Culture, by Mr. Glenny, from which we extract the following hints :—“Never save any seedling that is

second-rate ; and as the plants come into flower, look for those which have some characteristic which others have not—a very noble foliage, or a very beautiful habit, with any novel colour, or remarkable bloom, of good form and substance.” “Be not tempted with second-rate things. Let there be some very distinct point to justify keeping. The flowers, in the first place, should form a very distinct, compact, rounded cone, with foot-stalks short enough to keep every flower in its place.” “There ought to be no vacancy between them. There ought not to be a stalk seen. The rounder the individual flowers are, the better we like them.” The reason assigned for disliking flowers with long footstalks is, “In the first place, the bloom looks untidy the instant it grows and loosens, which, when the footstalks are too long, is before it fairly blooms out ; and upon one of these loose trusses the wind and rain have so much power, that the bloom is ephemeral.” [Some of our readers ask us to explain words of uncommon occurrence : ephemeral means of short duration ; the word is derived from a species of gnat, called *ephemera*, abundant at certain seasons, by the water side. They spring into life in the morning and die at night. Thus any flower which speedily fades is said to be ephemeral.]

## QUERIES.



I often hear it said that dwarf apples are best worked on the paradise stock ; will you be kind enough to say in your next number, in what it differs from the crab, and why it is preferred ? also whether all sorts of pears are best on the quince stock, and what effect it has on the growth or productiveness of the pear ?

A CURATE.

A receipt against the ravages of the onion maggot will be very acceptable to myself and many other sufferers in my neighbourhood.

Leicester.

JAMES THOMPSON.

[See Calendar.]

You would confer an especial favour, if you would give an article soon, on the best method of wintering plants in frames. I every year strike a good many, and always lose greater part of them, before the time of putting out. It may be a good thing for those who sell plants, but it is sadly disheartening to amateurs. I am persuaded that much more would be laid out in *new plants*, if we knew how to winter them in an economical manner.

*Bury St. Edmonds.*

B. W.

Will you be kind enough to state in your July number how I am to propagate the Scarlet Daphne (*Daphne cneorum*)? also some other pretty evergreen sorts that I have? I. M.

I have a large blue-flowering plant, which forms a fine crown of flowers; is it hardy, or in what way am I to treat it in winter?

*Colchester.*

R. S.

I have seen in several lists the names of what are called *ornamental crabs*; will you, pray, inform me what these are like, and whether adapted for garden, shrubbery, or orchard? Perhaps you will favour me with the names of the best six.

AN AMATEUR.

I want about six roses in each class, for my garden, and as I do not understand the classification of these flowers, will you give a list in your next number, at the same time stating colour, &c.? I want them good shaped and distinct, and at a price that will suit the pocket of A POOR FLORIST.

I have been told that some sorts of plums will reproduce themselves by seeds; is it so? I have suckers from some damascene trees; if these are planted, will they bear similar fruit, or are they suckers from the stock on which the damascene is grafted.

*Birmingham.*

HENRY SMITH.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

As *Experientia Docet* so greatly admires the method adopted by nature, in putting in her tulip seeds, I should have concluded he would not have departed from her teaching in the time of sowing them, did he not venture to name the 20th of February as the proper time. As nature has committed one error—in not sowing at the proper season—why may she not, therefore,—seeing she is not infallible—have erred a second time, by scattering her seeds, instead of planting them? In advising to plant the seeds with the germ down-

wards, I did not state it to be of *vital* importance, neither was I building upon any theory whatever; but I gave it simply as being the best method I had arrived at, after fifteen years' experience in the culture of seedling tulips; and during which time I had made a number of experiments. To me, the method I advocate appears nothing more than what common reasoning would teach us; for it cannot be questioned, that before a seed can possibly become a plant, the germ must first seek the soil, and then proceed downward to form the bulb—so that, consequently, by this mode of planting, it is *placed* in its proper position, and therefore, under no necessity to seek it. Besides, the tulip seed being flat, and the plant having to bring it above ground on its slender point, it must be evident, that it can more easily push through when placed on its edge, than when laid flat on the soil. In conclusion, I would ask E. D. what he means—for I am unable to discover his meaning—where he speaks of two theories? By what is stated by E. D., Mr. Slater appears to advocate a similar mode of planting to my own, with the *trifling* difference—and which alone seems to constitute the second theory—that Mr. Slater making no mention of the germ, his seeds would, therefore, possess none. But even such an omission of nature might possibly prove of no *vital* importance to *Experientia Docet*. J. B.

**EVERGREEN BARBERRIES HARDY ENOUGH FOR NORTHUMBERLAND.**—I. R.—These shrubs are extremely interesting. They are divided into two sections; the mahonias, or ash-leaved barberries, and those with small simple leaves. Of the first, or mahonia, we should say that the following would do:—*Mahonia repens* (The Creeping-rooted Mahonia); *M. aquifolia* (Holly-leaved Mahonia); *M. repens fascicularis*, a hybrid or cross-bred variety, very robust and beautiful; and the *M. nervosa*, or Nerve-leaved Mahonia. Of the small-leaved sorts sufficiently hardy for this purpose, there is *Berberis dulcis* (The Sweet-fruited Barberry), a most beautiful early-flowering shrub; *Berberis empetrifolia* (The Heath-leaved Barberry), a delicate-looking and very interesting evergreen; *Berberis aristata* (The Awned Barberry), a stout upright-growing shrub, having somewhat the character of the common sort, with evergreen leaves. We have also seen a seedling variety lately, called *Berberis dulcis tortuosa* (The Twisted-leaved Sweet-fruited Barberry), a very singular shrub. There are several other varieties, not sufficiently hardy for Northumberland, though they would be accounted as such in Devonshire.

**PEARS ON THE MOUNTAIN ASH.**—R. S.—The grafts will grow, and will, no doubt, bear fruit in time; but we have no knowledge of such grafts having borne, though Mr. Rivers, we understand, has some very promising.

**HARDY PLANTS FOR A NORTH-WEST WALL.—JAMES PEARCE.—**

A most beautiful ivy has lately been introduced, and is even now procurable in the nurseries; it is called *Rægneriana*, and has very large and distinct heart-shaped leaves. Add to this the new Gold-striped Ivy, as beautifully variegated as the Gold-edged Holly. The Tube-flowering Birthwort (*Aristolochio sipho*) is also well adapted for the purpose: we recollect seeing the walls of a lodge, near Stratford on-Avon, completely covered with its noble foliage. The Virginian Creeper (*Ampelopsis hederacea*) will grow almost anywhere; planted with the above, its foliage, which turns to deep crimson in the autumn, has a very pretty effect. To these may be added, the *Clematis vitacella* (Single Purple Virgin's Bower); and we think that these will make a beautiful covering for a wall, as they combine singularity of form with bright and strikingly coloured foliage, &c.

**MANAGEMENT OF THE CLIANTHUS PUNICEUS.**—In Ireland and Devonshire, this fine shrub withstands the winter; in the northern counties, it requires very careful protection, even in the most sheltered situations. It makes an excellent pillar plant for the greenhouse or conservatory, and we have seen it equally beautiful trained to the rafter of a small greenhouse. It is extremely liable to the attacks of the red spider. If the plant is grown out of doors, it should be taken up with a ball of soil, spurring in any straggling branches. It flowers in a greenhouse, or frame, in the early part of summer.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR JUNE.



OWING to the extreme dry weather of the middle of May, much of the decoration of flower borders has been delayed till now; it ought, however, to be done directly, with such things as *anagallises*, *bouvardias*, *cupheas*, *fuchsias*, *geraniums*, *heliotropiums*, *lobelias*, *malvas*, *mimuluses*, *pentstemons*, *petunias*, *salvias*, *tropæolums*, *verbenas*, &c. Our readers who are not much acquainted with the above plants, may inquire for them, and they will find that any or the whole may be purchased at a cheap rate, and are admirably calculated to afford a fine display of flowers during the summer and autumnal months. Many things, such as early *tulips*, *hyacinths*, *narcissuses*, &c. will be out of bloom now, and in order to have a succession, the above might be plunged in pots, in the bed, between the bulbs above-mentioned; or the latter might be taken up, and the former

turned out of the pots, and planted in the same situation, at the option of the possessor. It is not to be expected that after the plants are put into the ground they are then done with. The careful florist will peg down the shoots of *verbenas*, *salvias*, &c. and if they get too straggling, pinch off the tops, to induce a more compact growth. When climbing summer plants are put out (and they are very beautiful, either for covering lattice work, or growing as pillars), they, of course, must be trained and tied up. We shall use the names, whether English or botanical, by which they are usually called. Amongst those best adapted for small gardens are the *Canary Plant* (*Tropæolum peregrinum*), the *Blood Nasturtian*, the *Double Red Nasturtian*; the *Calampelis scaber*, with bright orange flowers; the *Rhodochiton volubile*, a singular dark crimson purple; and *Lothospermum scandens*, with deep pink or spotted flowers. These will look well, and produce a profusion of blossoms.

*Bourbon* and *China Roses* that have been kept in pots may be planted out, and especial care must be taken to keep them free from grubs. This season the *rose trees* have been ravaged by the rose maggot, which has not only eaten the buds, but also attacked the shoots and devoured the pith. Pruning properly is a great preventive of the brown grub, which generally takes up its winter quarters in the decayed *snags* or stumps which careless pruners leave in their trees. It will also be necessary to destroy a green caterpillar, which preys on the leaves; they may be detected by the web which they attach to the sides of the leaves, and in which they envelope themselves. There is yet another enemy, in many places called the rose chafer or beetle, but better known in the *Midlands* by the name of "bracken clock." As these feed at night, and move about at that period, their ravages, which are serious to the blooms, are difficult to prevent. We saw a capital plan adopted last year, with a *yellow Persian rose* in bloom; it was covered with a piece of lace, perhaps a yard square, by which means these beautiful flowers were saved. Material for this purpose can be purchased, we believe, at about threepence per square yard.

*Tulips*.—These will be past for this season, except in the more northern counties. We gave directions, &c. for impregnation and cross-breeding, in the June calendar of our last year's volume, to which we must refer our readers. When the roots are taken up let them be dried gradually in the shade, where there is a free current of air. Many complaints have reached us as to the singular and fatal disease which attacks these roots. We trust that our friends will send the result of their investigations on this matter.

*Carnations and Picotees*.—Trap earwigs in every possible way; by clearing them off now, you save your *dahlias*, in a great measure, from their attacks. Bean stalks, and tobacco pipe heads, placed on the tops of the sticks, are much used; but if

the pipes have been used for smoking, the earwigs will not enter; they, as well as all other insects, have a mortal dread of tobacco. Tie up the shoots, as they spindle. If for exhibition, one or two buds, according to the strength of the plant, are sufficient for it to carry; if seed is required, and the plant is strong, seven or eight buds may be left on. Should the plant be weak, and throw up a single shoot, without any symptom of increase, the best way is to cut it down to within an inch of the surface, in order that it may emit shoots.

*Pinks* will now spindle rapidly. The same observations, in a great measure, apply to them. Seed should now be well up. Keep them from excessive sun; in fact, they are far better without it in the middle of the day, till they have acquired strength.

*Pansies*.—In the seedling bed, remove all that are not of fine quality; the varieties increase so rapidly by seed, that it is utterly useless saving any but first-rate flowers, or those which have some good points about them, which it is desirable to retain in their progeny. Propagate old-established varieties by cuttings, and water occasionally between the rows of plants, on the beds, with weak manure water.

*Auriculas*.—Seedlings must be carefully tended; they must have no sun; half an hour's exposure would infallibly destroy them. The stock plants must also stand in the shade, and if the pots are well drained, they will require no covering, for should excessive rain fall at this season, it does not appear to harm them. Occasionally the surface soil will appear soddened, and on lifting the pot it will feel heavy, an evident proof that there is defective drainage: it must be immediately seen to, or the existence of the plant will be endangered.

*Polyanthuses*.—The moist spring has been much in favour of these plants, consequently, the bloom was good. Never let them have too much sun; they cannot bear it. Prick out seedlings, on a border facing the north or north-east, in a compost of *decayed turf, decomposed cow manure, and leaf soil*, or other decayed vegetable matter.

*Ranunculuses*.—These like a firm subsoil, cool and rich, to root in; they seldom do well in light dry soil. Water between the rows, as occasion requires.

*Dahlias*.—Always place the strong centre stick to the plant when you put it out. They should all now be in their proper situations for growing. Shade and water as occasion requires.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN.

*Peas* may still be sown; and those which require it may be *pricked*, as the operation of putting the sticks down to them is called in this part of the world. Dancer's Monastery proved itself a fine late pea, last season.

*Potatoes*.—Many people in this neighbourhood are now (the middle of May) planting; we think it a bad plan to defer it to so late a period. Earth up as they grow, and keep them free from weeds till the tops get master.

Sow *turnips*. The Red Stone and Snowball are best, though the Green Barrel is excellent, and equally as well adapted for the table as for the cow, of those amongst our readers who happen to possess so useful an animal.

When rain comes, plant out *savoy*s, *Brussels sprouts*, &c. The *Jerusalem kale*, a purple-leaved sort, is excellent and very hardy.

*Turnip radishes* will be best sown now. Prick out *lettuce* and *celery plants*, for late crops.

*Kidney Beans* (Runners).—These should have the tops of young larch put down to them; they are excellent stakes, and last many years. In addition to the old Scarlet Runner, there is the Painted Lady, with scarlet and white blossoms, and a new one has just been introduced by Mr. Shilling, of Kingston-on-Rail.

Fresh line *cucumber beds*, and peg down the shoots of the plants, pinching off the ends, or stopping them as they require it.

The seed of various *herbs* may now be sown; and where it is desirable to dry any, they should be cut and hung up in an airy place, taking care that they are just in flower.

### FRUIT TREES AND SHRUBS.

We recommended, last season, that foreright shoots of *pears* and *apples* should be broken over; we are happy to learn that the system is approved of.

Summer pruning *currants*, *gooseberries*, and other fruits may be proceeded with.

Insects of all sorts are abundant this season. The mealy bug, or American blight, must be carefully destroyed on its first appearance; a small and hard brush is a good thing to destroy them with in the crevices of the bark. The buds emitted by the grafts, more especially *plums*, have been much eaten this spring, by a small beetle, which feeds on them during the night. The best way to catch these pests is to make the ground smooth round the young trees, and place a clod of earth at the root; if this is examined each morning, the marauders will generally be found concealed beneath. Examine buds which were inserted last autumn. *Apricots* and *plums* are peculiarly liable to the attacks of caterpillars.

Nail the shoots of wall trees, when required, &c. &c.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## TULIPS, ETC. IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

WE had hoped to have given our readers a good gossiping account of our travels amongst the tulip growers of the midland counties, but in consequence of a most unpropitious season for the blooming of their flowers, and the total abandonment of many exhibitions, our peregrinations were considerably curtailed. Still we have experienced the highest gratification; for though the good or first-rate flowers were as *one to a thousand*, yet we have seen amongst them some gems of the first water; and as we can well conceive that many of our readers are anxious to know what these fine varieties may be, we will endeavour to describe them, for their especial amusement and instruction. We may as well begin with our visit to Chellaston, noticing several other beds we saw during the day.

On leaving the Coppice, our first call was at Mr. Lymbury's, of Hyson Green, near Nottingham. The bed is not large, but number is superseded by quality, and few beds of the same extent, in the county, can boast of so many fine varieties. Here every attention was paid to the blooms, and though a shade past their best, still they were magnificent. Amongst flowers not usually grown well, or at least not coming in the character that suits us northerners, we may mention Strong's King, a flamed bizarre, in its very best character, flame and feather perfect. Earl St. Vincent and Emperor of Russia, in the same class, though the latter is somewhat pale, were also fine; whilst a feathered bizarre, name unknown, but supposed to be a seedling, was one of the best we have seen this

season: it is a second row flower, short cup, clean, and deeply and regularly feathered. Mr. Lymbury was the purchaser of Thackeray's Queen Catherine, a feathered rose, and though it was hardly so fine as last season, still it was most interesting and pretty. Arlette was in very good character, and when fine is an addition to this scarce class. A feathered byblœmen particularly took our attention: it was designated Irene, and was a fit companion for the bizarre previously alluded to. Amongst second-rate flowers, but which occasionally come in good style, we may mention the old and now discarded Sable Rex, and Amiable Brunette, both flamed byblœmens, and nine times out of ten very much stained; here, however, they were, to our great surprise, comparatively clean, in fact, they were in the state of fine stage flowers. Mr. L. informs us that one great cause of his flowers being so pure, is the care he takes of the buds. As soon as they are sufficiently coloured to give indications of a fine flame or feather, each bud is "*glassed*," which is a great preventive of the colours flushing, &c. These glasses are kept on after the awning is put up, thus protecting them from dust and other extraneous matters.

The next halt we made was at Bramcote, to see the bed of Mr. Thomas Gibbons. The flowers here were very beautifully grown, and comprise the majority of the seedlings raised by his brother; but "as bitters are always commingled with the sweets," so here we found the *misery of the Chellastons*; *splendid flowers* truly, but many with uncertain names, and others so much alike as to make it certain that they are from the same breeder.

These flowers would be worth five times more than they are, were they still retained in their original numbers. The florists of England may thank Mr. Gibbons for some six or twelve flowers fit to rank with their greatest favourites; but they will ever blame him for altering his numbers, and causing the uncertainty in his varieties, and by this means depriv-

ing the holders and original purchasers of his seedlings of the opportunity of fairly disposing of them.

We are grieved at the complaints we hear on this matter; but of a truth, the Chellaston seedlings are "*confusion worse confounded*."

On the bed of Mr. Thomas Gibbons, we saw the most magnificent Van Amburg, flamed byblœmen, that it has been our lot to witness. We should say that this particular strain was a decided beat on Grace Darling, and a flower of the very best properties. Pilot, flamed bizarre, was also *in his very best garb*; and Princess Royal, flamed byblœmen, as fine and beautiful as we could well wish her. Here also was No. 76, a feathered byblœmen, the white of the most dazzling purity, each petal regularly and truly feathered about the eighth of an inch in width with very dark plum colour, nearly black, the form good, and in fact possessing almost every good property; the base of the petals is also pure, but alas! the stamens *are black*. Every tulip grower will, we are sure, lament with us this *sad stain on its character*. There was yet another feathered byblœmen, name unknown, which afterwards was exhibited in his pan at Derby, very like Maid of Orleans. It certainly was a beautiful and very desirable flower.

In Mr. Gibbons's garden we were highly pleased with a fine bush of the Pæony moutan, or Tree Pæony. It was a beautiful sight, more than fifty blossoms being expanded at once. We cannot too strongly recommend this excellent hardy shrub.

Our next move was into Derbyshire, passing through the river Derwent, at the Borrowash ford, near the picturesque residence of I. Towle, Esq. We neared Elvaston Castle, the seat of the Earl of Harrington, which fame describes as a complete *fairylând*. Unfortunately for the community, they are obliged to be in a great measure satisfied with what report says, without being able to test her truth by personal inspection. Here are the most beautiful trees that money can purchase, brought together by

the thousand. The Irish and Gold-striped Yews, cypresses, junipers, Deodar Cedars, &c. are some of the most splendid specimens in the country. The grounds are peculiarly rich in coniferæ, &c. We much regret that this beautiful domain is not thrown open to visitors, one day in each week, as are many other princely residences in England. We can conceive no greater pleasure in this world, than *affording* pleasure and ministering to the rational enjoyment of others; and we are sure that the beautiful grouping, the artistic style of planting, joined to the extreme rarity of the splendid trees here brought together, would go far, very far, to inculcate a right taste in such matters, and would tend to the conception of refined ideas in all that relates to landscape gardening and planting. Though the road which passes the front of the castle, at some considerable distance, is lowered, so that a peep is next to impossible, still, by clambering on the top of our vehicle, my enthusiastic friends got a view of the noble avenue, which only increased their longings. We were glad to see the splendid weeping ash, noticed at page 128, towering above every thing, boldly and proudly exhibiting itself, free from all restriction, to every passer by; plainly indicating that it does not grow to be hid, and by a little stretch of the imagination, we might suppose that it hung its leafy head, mourning the seclusion its more humble companions were doomed to suffer. Passing Elvaston with sincere regret, we reached the little village of Thulston. Here lives John Spencer, the winner of the first prize at Derby, last year,—with old varieties, beating his neighbour, Mr. Gibbons, who lives in the next village. Mr. Spencer's bloom was past; we saw the relics of a few fine flowers, and passed on to Chellaston. Here again we were doomed to disappointment, for we question whether Mr. Gibbons's flowers had ever before come in such bad character since he raised them. The breeder bed was, however, first-rate: Anastasia, rose, rising three feet eight inches from the

soil, and Van Amburg, Princess Royal, Catherine, Countess of Harrington, Nonpareil, &c. being excellent. Mr. Gibbons informed us that he had taken more than usual care with his best beds, and that the foliage came out of the ground as strong as could be wished, but after a time they experienced a check, which they did not recover. As a matter of course, amongst so many there were sure to be some of them fine. In bybloemens, we may name Maid of Orleans, a beautiful black feather, on a pure white ground; Lady Flora Hastings, not so dark a feather as the preceding, but a fine cupped flower. In flamed bybloemens, Van Amburg, North Midland (which has stained stamens), Prince Albert, and Queen of Violets were very fine; whilst a newly-broken flower, named Premier, was of most excellent quality; it does not rise higher than the second row, the white very pure, with a better cup than Queen Charlotte, but very much in the style of that old favourite and beautiful variety. Grace Darling was also in fine character, perhaps somewhat too heavy for some tastes. This sort, in comparison with others, is singularly scarce, and fine breaks are difficult to be had; in fact, amongst all Mr. Gibbons's collection, he does not know of more than two or three breeders and his main rectified root and offsets; therefore, this fine sort must maintain a high price for some years. Catherine may be quoted as one of the best of the flamed roses; though, like all the Chellastons, very heavy in the beam. In bizarres, we saw nothing particular, beyond Pilot, which is pure, whilst Captain Sleigh is stained. In addition to tulips, Mr. G. is a good general grower of florists' flowers, cultivating some of the best seedling polyanthus in the midland counties. We next visited Mr. Foreman, who also grows many similar breeders, and some few fresh varieties. Here we saw Magnet, a very neat feathered bizarre, wholly different in character to anything else. Unfortunately Eclipse was out of bloom. This variety gained the premier prize at Derby, last year,

and was somewhat like a good Black Bagot, but shorter in the cup. Van Amburg was good, and Great Western, feathered bybløemen, was in fine character, but with stained stamens.

Our wanderings reached as far as the Red Lion Inn, whose landlord is a florist, *and consequently a civil man*. We looked through his flowers, which were well grown, though he had suffered the extreme mortification of being robbed of some of his best, as they were just out of the ground. We would seriously advise our brother florists who visit that part of the country to make his house head quarters. Our notice of the Derby and Bellevue Garden shows must be postponed till our next number, when we shall also describe a few new sorts grown in our own neighbourhood.

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### THINNING AND PRUNING DAHLIAS.

VERY many of your readers are cultivators of that splendid autumnal flower the dahlia, and as they require considerable attention in pruning, &c. to produce them in their best character, I will enumerate a few of those which should be thus attended to. I will, however, to prove the utility of these few remarks, suppose that an amateur is the purchaser of certain varieties, and on growing them very strong, and training them after the most approved fashion, he finds his blooms small and unsatisfactory, though, from the strength of the plants, he had expected a very different result. In this case, judicious pruning and thinning the branches would have prevented the disappointment. On the other hand, some are so coarse, that in order to obtain flowers at all showable, it is requisite that every bud should be left on. As this number of the *Midland Florist* will be out in time, I hope your readers will find the hint of service to them.

The varieties which require considerable thinning, disbudding, &c. are, Admiral Stopford, Bermondsey Bee, Essex Rosy Lilac, Indispensable, Miss Sarah, Mrs. Edwards, Minn, Nonpareil, Adolphe Dubras, Mimosa, Roi des Points, Pantaloon, Princess Royal, Queen of Sheba, Standard of Perfection, Louis Philippe, Queen of Roses, and Eliza Miellez. On the other hand, the sorts next enumerated will require careful training, but they must be allowed to carry every bud and branch that they make:—Goldfinch, Lady Sale, Athlete, Beeswing, Beauty of Sussex, Box, Cleopatra, Mrs. Shelley, Lady of the Lake, Colour Sergeant, Triumph de Peck, Sarah, The Hero, Miss Vyse, White Admiral, Gloria Mundi, Marquis of Aylesbury, Aurora, and Queen of England.

H. S. M.

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### STANDARD CURRANT TREES.

MAY I introduce to the notice of your readers the great advantage of growing this very useful fruit as standards? Mine are about three feet in height, supported by a stake. The young shoots are stopped about the middle of May (that is, their ends are nipped off with the thumb and finger), and in the winter pruned down so as to leave only two or three buds. By adopting this mode of pruning, the head acquires an immense number of fruiting buds, such as would surprise any one who has not seen them.

The advantages are, that the fruit is *free from dirt*, is larger, and much less room is required for the cultivation of the trees. I would strongly recommend every one who has a garden to grow them. The red and white varieties do the best, but there are some splendid black ones in my neighbourhood. I have twelve plants, about five years old; they are fruiting beautifully this year. I have seen some that are about seven years old, which are quite a show.

In pruning currant trees against a wall, I think it is bad policy to allow the shoots to remain their whole length; for this reason, when the tree becomes old, the fruit buds only grow from the joints. I think the shoots should always be cut down to about seven or eight inches, and am persuaded that more fruit-bearing wood would be the consequence. In a neighbouring garden to my own, I see the bad effects of this system; there being stems against the wall, three or four feet long, without any bearing wood whatever; neither do they appear to show a disposition to form any.

B.

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### OBSERVATIONS ON THE HIGH PRICES OF SEEDLING FLOWERS.

I HAVE read the article at page 51, in the present volume of the *Midland Florist*, by Amator Florum, and as I purposed addressing your readers upon the subject so pointedly alluded to by him, I forward my observations accordingly.

I have heard it very tritely remarked, that florists are not so much to be reprehended in gratifying their tastes, in the high prices they pay for new flowers, as those who expend thousands of pounds in the formation of a picture gallery. This, however, is quite foreign to the subject, as a painting is a work of art, and to arrive at perfection—a *point rarely achieved*—requires a life of arduous study; whilst a flower, being a natural production, is originated at a comparatively small amount of labour, and at trifling expense in bringing it to maturity. To view the subject as a pecuniary one, the florist has a decided advantage in the rapid increase of his productions, whilst the picture remains a *dead weight* in the hands of its possessor—*less* the gratification experienced in the possession of it.



I am not advocating the immoderate prices modern florists demand for their productions; but on the contrary, I candidly confess, that we enthusiastic amateurs are the only parties open to censure for countenancing such an extortionate system. It is an evident fact, that high prices have in most instances originated with a class of persons whose sole object is gain, and who possess neither the inclination nor the will to wait the increased growth of a second season, whereby they would be enabled to charge such a moderate price on their increased stock as would sufficiently repay for any additional trouble and expense occasioned by the delay; and it would also be the means of bringing their productions more prominently before the floricultural public; but they prefer offering them in the first instance, with such flattering descriptions as to attract the attention of the zealous florist, in whom, I need scarcely observe, they find an excellent customer.

The present system of exorbitant prices ought not to be tolerated, and I certainly am in favour of a moderate standard price being affixed for the present class of florists' flowers; and in order to arrive at a safe conclusion, I subjoin a list of the leading varieties, whose prices very rarely exceeded half-a-guinea per pair, and several being under that sum, when they were first sent out.

**SCARLET BIZARRES.**—Ely's Jolly Dragoon, Regulator, Sir R. Peel, Earl Fitzwilliam, Lord Pollington, Lord Mexborough, Sir Hugh Gough, and Sir H. Hardinge; Smith's Duke of Wellington, Elliott's Duke of Sutherland, Lodge's Royal Briton, Hepworth's True Briton and Brilliant, Harvey's Conqueror, Headley's Achilles, Easom's British Hero and Admiral Curzon, Robinson's Joe Langsdale, Colcut's Brutus and Juba, Hale's Prince Albert, Martin's Splendid, Kaye's Omnium Primus, Sharpe's Defiance, Christian's Isonia.

**CRIMSON BIZARRES.**—Ely's Lord Milton, Hugo Meynell, Duke of Bedford, and Duke of Kent; Marris's Thomas Hood, Barnard's Duke of Roxburg, Mansley's Robert Burns, Bucknall's Charlemagne and Talma, Chambers's Kate, Martin's Prince Albert, Puxley's Prince Albert, Wallis's Young Earl Grey, Holmes's Count Paulini, Halfacre's Rainbow, Wilmer's Deucalion.

**SCARLET FLAKES.**—Ely's William Beckett, Prince of Wales, King of Scarlets, and Lord Morpeth; Wilson's William IV., Wigg's Earl of Leicester, Simpson's Marquis of Granby and Queen Victoria, Wilmer's Venella, Wallis's Beauty of Cradley, Beauty of Brighthouse, Chadwick's Brilliant, Bucknall's Ulysses, Mitchell's Patriot, Hero of Middlesex, Bishop of Gloucester.

**ROSE FLAKES.**—Ely's Lady Ely, Lovely Ann, Lady Gardener, Wilson's Harriet, Flora's Garland, Lady Stanhope, Puxley's Lady Alice Peel and Queen of Roses, Morton's Lovely Mary, Staton's Rosy Queen, Hyron's Victoria, Barrenger's Apollo, Wood's Rosabella.

**PURPLE FLAKES.**—Ely's Leviathan, John Wright, and Mrs. Hewley; Mansley's Beauty of Woodhouse and Bonny Bess, Christian's Excellent, Taylor's Lord Byron, Hudson's Duke of Rutland, Norman's Duke of Wellington, Wilmer's Solander, Brabbin's 'Squire Meynell, Turner's William Penn.

**PICOTÉES.**—Wildman's Isabella, Green's Victoria, Wilmer's Princess Royal, Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan, Miss Jane, Alice Peel, Wilmer's Elizabeth, Crask's Prince Albert and Victoria, Robinson's Duke of Wellington and Nottingham Hero, Sharpe's Duke of Wellington, Ely's Field Marshal, Favourite, Great Western, Mrs. Lilley, Mrs. Horner, Mrs. Hugo Meynell, Lady Chesterfield, Brinkler's Purple Perfection, Queen Victoria, and a host of others.

I am not in possession of sufficient information to state accurately the price at which some of the earlier flowers, such as Gameboy, Rainbow, Paul Pry, Mrs. Hughes, Duchess of Devonshire, Village Maid, First-rate, Ringleader, Jolly Angler, Turner's Charlotte, President, &c. were sent out; but I have been credibly informed that seven shillings and sixpence per pair was considered a *long price* in those days.

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## SOILS AND COMPOSTS PROPER FOR THE GROWTH AND NOURISHMENT OF PLANTS.

ALL plants, in their several degrees, draw from the earth such aliment as is proper for their subsistence, and the nourishment they receive, as it is more or less suitable to them, makes them prosper accordingly. The food of plants is of three sorts, sand, loam (or mother earth), and clay; and in each of these there is a certain proportion of salts, proper for

the nourishment of every plant. That all these salts are necessary to vegetation, is evident by the common practice of burying straw, litter, &c. to enrich some soils. Natural soil, such as loam or mother earth, is the medium between sand and clay, that is, an earth of a certain temperature, partaking equally of them both; and all soils may be reduced under these three general heads, viz. sand, loam, and clay; for all others, although they may bear different names, are in some respects depending upon one or other of these. All soils are alike tending to vegetation, and have their salts proper for it, but in different proportions of quantity. A peck of clay has, perhaps, twice as many salts in it as the same quantity of loam, and that quantity of loam twice as many as the same proportion of sand. Now, from this argument, it may seem at first view that clay is the most proper to forward the growth of plants; but most persons know that sand will produce plants quicker than any other soil. The reason is this, clay, whose parts are closer together, will not easily give out those salts contained it; neither can the tender fibres of every plant make their way through it, in search of nourishment; but if we open its parts by digging, and mixing with it some sharp sand, or other body of the like nature, we shall not fail to see the effects of this amelioration. On the other hand, sand is apt to push forward the plants growing upon it early in the spring, and even will cause them to germinate near a month sooner than the plants growing upon clay; the reason is, the salts in the sand are at full liberty to be raised and put in motion, upon the least approach of the sun's warmth. They are hasty in their work, but in dry seasons, they are soon exhaled and lost. Clay has certain plants growing upon it which are natural to it, and consequently thrive better than in any other soil. Sand also has its natural plants, which delight in it, and will not equally prosper in any other earth. Clay and sand plants will grow in the loamy soil mentioned, because it partakes of the qualities of both.

The word *loam* is variously received and understood by gardeners and others. Some mean by it the most common superficial *earth* met with in England, without any regard to the proportions it bears of sand or clay; others would have it more inclining to clay than sand; but when I mention it, I mean only that degree of earth which equally partakes of sand and clay. The earth, then, which I shall call loam, may be of a black or yellow colour, and experience shows us that plants of all sorts will grow in it, and it appears to be a more beneficial soil for them than any other, wherever it happens to be found. Seeing then, that loam is so fruitful in productions, that even plants bred in different soils will thrive in it, it appears reasonable, that if by mixtures of *natural earths* one with the other, a compost can be made that may nearly imitate it, we may expect far greater success from a mixture of that sort, than from any composition we can make with dung, or other forcing ingredients.

Should the above find a place in the *Midland Florist*, in my next I will resume the subject, and give a few mixtures, for the benefit of your readers.

JOHN ATKIN.

*North Muskham, May 18, 1848.*

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## THE BEST FRUIT TREES FOR SMALL GARDENS.

BY THE EDITOR.

[Continued from page 188.]

### PEARS.

In this class very great improvement has taken place, of late years, particularly in continental sorts. The greatest contributors, as far as new and good varieties go, are M. Van Mons and M. Esperin, on the Continent, and in England, T. A. Knight, Esq. These seedlings have superseded very many of the old sorts, and it is no unusual thing to see the heads of the

inferior kinds taken off, and the stocks regrafted with better varieties. Travelling some years ago through Tetenhall, in Staffordshire, we were amazed at the quantity of large pear trees, apparently with more fruit than leaves. In the gathering season, we understood, they were often sold at one shilling and sixpence per sack. The variety, except for its productiveness, is not worth cultivating, being small and dry; nevertheless, it makes a good stock, but is now fast disappearing from the midland counties. The same may be said of the Crawford, and some other old varieties.

*The Jargonelle*, however, holds its place, and as a wall-fruit, or as a standard, it is first-rate.

*The Green and Striped Catherine* are often seen in our market; they are very productive, and the latter very handsome; the trees also grow well, making much wood.

*The Aston Town* is very hardy, very productive, and tolerably good, having a slight grittiness at the core.

*The Hessel* is better than the last-named, being handsome, fully as productive, and one of the most profitable pears grown.

*The St. Michael* is not well adapted for a standard, but bears well against a wall, often producing large crops of fruit even in unfavourable situations.

*Windsor*.—A fine old variety, large, and of much excellence. It will not, however, keep long, being at its best during the latter part of August and the beginning of September. It forms, in suitable situations, a large standard tree.

*Swan's Egg*.—This, when thoroughly ripe, is an excellent melting pear. It appears to be wearing out; many old trees, within our knowledge, being in a comparatively dying state, with large branches diseased and rotting fast. When in vigour, it bears well. The fruit is of medium size, and ripe in November.

*The Autumn Bergamot* is a very old favourite, rather small, but melting and excellent.

*The Welbeck Bergamot*.—A very productive but coarse pear, attaining a large size. Best from a standard; and though a good market pear, we should not plant it.

Other pears are grown in the midland counties, as the Orange Bergamot, Green Chisel, &c. but they are far surpassed by some of the Belgian

varieties. For a wall, standard, or pyramid, we would recommend

*Marie Louise*.—This is most excellent. Tree of rather slender growth, very productive, fruit large, pale yellow when ripe, and of first-rate quality. Season, latter end of October.

*Beurré de Capiaumont*.—Bears most wonderfully. This, like the preceding, is well adapted for small gardens; the flavour is perhaps not quite so good, but it should be grown extensively. Its season is October.

*Brougham*.—As a British raised variety, this deserves attention, being large, of fine quality, and bearing well either on a wall, as a standard, or an espalier. It is ripe in November.

*Louise Bonne of Jersey*.—Very handsome and very productive, large, and of fine quality; thus uniting in itself many good points. It will do well as a standard, or worked on the quince, and it makes a good dwarf. Ripe the latter end of October or beginning of November, according to season.

*Monarch*.—This was raised by Mr. Knight, and by him considered one of his best. It is not so large as several of the preceding, but it is of most excellent quality, bearing well, and being at its best the latter end of December and January. It is, moreover, very hardy, and ought to be grown in every collection.

*Soldat Laboureur*.—Ripens in March, of large size, and of the very best quality. This also will produce well as a standard, but it is every way worthy of a wall.

*Van Mons Leon le Clerc*.—A long name truly, but “*what's in a name?*” the fruit is excellent, which is the great point. The tree also is very productive, the fruit of the largest size, and ripe in October.

We shall have to return to this subject again. We now want to recommend some half-dozen varieties, which combine as many good qualities as possible, will succeed each other, and, as far as we know, are well adapted either for the amateur, artizan, or allotment holder.

*Jargonelle*.—August.  
*Hessel*.—September.  
*Marie Louise*.—October.

*Louise Bonne of Jersey*.—Nov.  
*Monarch*.—December.  
*Soldat Laboureur*.—January.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

The following plums are most excellent:—

*Lawrence's Gage*.—An American variety of large size, resembling our old favourite Greengage, but considerably larger. It ripens in September, and is of first-rate flavour.

*Bleeker's Yellow Gage*.—A splendid variety, colour pale yellow, large in size, and fine in quality. This sort also ripens in September, and is one of the finest yellow plums grown.

## FLOWERS.

**SCOTCHER'S LUCY NEAL PANSY**.—A very beautiful purple self; fine form and substance, the centre very fine golden yellow.

**TULIPS**.—At the amateur tulip show, at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, London, the honorary secretary, Mr. Crook, was awarded two prizes, for a flamed rose, called *Mary*, and a flamed bybloemen, in the style of *Pandora*, and considered superior to that much esteemed variety.

**POLYANTHUS**.—**KINGFISHER** (Addis's).—This fine variety was raised by a person named Box, who parted with the stock to the present proprietor. It has only been exhibited three times, on two of which occasions it won premiums. It is very constant and an excellent addition to this pretty class of flowers. Blooms have been submitted to Dr. Lindley, Mr. John Dickson, and ourselves, and the opinion entertained of it is very favourable. It will be sent out in autumn, of which due notice will be given by advertisement.

**MIMULUS.—SMITH'S HARLEQUIN.**—A large and well-proportioned flower: ground colour lemon, with large blotches of crimson, approaching scarlet, on the corolla. It was awarded a first-class certificate, on the 9th of May. From the ease with which all the mimuluses are propagated, we should suppose this very fine variety will soon be attainable.

### VERBENAS.

These have become so absolutely necessary for decorating the flower border, in the summer months, for which purpose, in consequence of their style of growth, they are so well adapted, that improved varieties are much sought after. We understand that the following are very fine:—

*Snowball.*—First-rate in form; superior to any other of its class.

*Duchess of Northumberland.*—Very large, colour bright peach, and of good form, each blossom, when fully expanded, being as large as a shilling, and the whole forming a most magnificent truss.

### FANCY PELARGONIUMS OR GERANIUMS.

*Garland* (Ambrose's).—A fine variety. The centre is white, slightly tinged with lilac and rose; round the centre is a broad band of bright rosy violet, with a lighter margin to the petal.

*Ne plus ultra.*—Centre white, with a band of brilliant pink, the margin of the flower being white; a most attractive sort.

*Picta.*—The top petals are bright crimson, with the edges white; in the centre of the three lower petals is a spot similar in colour to the upper petals, shading off with a lighter colour to white.

*Champion of Devon.*—Handsome. The upper petals are deep crimson, with a lighter margin; the centre of the flower is pale, and the lower petals banded with crimson, with a purple margin.

The following are not included in the fancy class:

*Mont Blanc.*—Pure white, of fine form, very distinct, blooms most abundantly, the top petals having a small spot in each.

*Aurora's Beam* (Beck).—This and the preceding variety were each awarded a silver medal, at the Royal South London Floricultural Society. The lower petals are deep rose, with a spot on each; the upper petals are nearly covered with a rich dark marone, except a narrow margin of rose round each. It is very rich in colour, and a highly desirable variety.



## HARDY PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**PATER'S MULE PINK.**—Grows about eighteen inches high, with double flowers, produced in great profusion. The colour is deep rose, with a dark centre. Very desirable.

**DELPHINEUM AMERICANUM VARIEGATA.** (*The Variegated American Larkspur.*)—Of tall growth; the flower not particularly showy, but singular, from its leaves, which are edged, veined, and mottled with white.

**DIANTHUS FOXII.** (*Fox's Hybrid Pink.*)—Not very large, semi-double, the colour reddish lilac, with darker centre, sweet scented, continues long in bloom, and is a good border plant.



## TREES AND SHRUBS.

**ULMUS VIMINALIS VARIEGATA.** (*The Variegated Twiggy-branched Elm.*)—This is a singularly pretty variegated small tree. In its common or green state it is very ornamental, and, unlike many variations, which vanish as the tree ages or becomes luxuriant, this appears to be as permanent as the variegated holly, sycamore, or chestnut. The leaves are small, and the branches clothed with little shoots, which gives the tree a compact appearance. As a lawn tree, grafted standard high, on the common elm, it is very desirable.

**NEW HONEYSUCKLE.**—Mr. F. Fox, of Cliff Vale, near Leek, has lately sent us a specimen of a cross-bred variety. The seed was saved from *Caprifolium dioicum* (the *Dioicum Honeysuckle*), crossed with *Caprifolium pubescens* (the *Pubescent Honeysuckle*). It will prove very ornamental. The flowers are of a yellowish red, partaking in this respect of the character of both parents, and are produced in many-

flowered clusters. Our readers may thus see how easy it is by perseverance and a little forethought, to raise new plants, fruits, trees, &c. which add to the pleasure and happiness of the community at large. We consider those engaged in this pursuit as benefactors of their country in no ordinary degree.

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## VEGETABLES.

Many of our readers are not acquainted with the **BLACK SPANISH RADISH**, which attains a large size, and is much relished amongst certain classes, as an accompaniment to salads, &c. Its period of perfection is autumn, and it may be kept through the winter.

**ANOTHER WINTER RADISH** has lately come under our notice. It was exhibited at the Horticultural Society of Liege, in 1847. It is of beautiful form, somewhat like a small turnip, the skin being of a pale pink. It is of excellent quality, and will, we have no doubt, be much prized for prolonging the season of these roots. It may be sown in August, and each successive month, by which means a regular supply will be obtained during the year. It may be cultivated in the same manner as the common turnip radish, but sowing it in drills, six inches asunder, would be the preferable plan.

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**THE PROLIFIC WALNUT** (*Juglans præparturiens*), noticed at page 15, vol. ii., was sold out for the first time in 1837, by M. André Leroy, nurseryman, of Angers, in France. The fruit is said to be very good, and the variety is reproduced from seed.

**THE GONDOUIN RED CURRANT** was raised by M. Gondouin, gardener at the Chateau de Choisy, and bears short bunches of large fruit.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

## ON THE CULTURE OF CELERY.

CELERY is one of the most wholesome and useful of all vegetables, but subject to mismanagement to a great degree. In the first place, it is generally sown too early. The main crops should never by any means be sown sooner than the first or second week in April, and then on a very slight hotbed, covering a part of the bed with a light, or hand-glasses, by which means you get plants of two different ages. Sprinkle your bed and the plants, when up, with water slightly warmed; and stir the soil often, with a pointed stick, to keep it open. As soon as the plants have two leaves, besides the seed leaves, prick a quantity very carefully on another slight hotbed.

If you want to grow celery extra large, then prick it again, in about sixteen or eighteen days; then the third time, leaving the same interval between. Keeping them watered with good water, and hoeing them often, will be the means of making strong well-rooted plants; but they must not be allowed to stand, after the third time transplanting, more than ten days or a fortnight, or the fibres will have spread such a distance, that they will be subject to get broken off when taken up, which should be done with great care, with a trowel, with all the earth which will adhere to the plants. I must here make one important remark, which is, in planting in any stage of its growth, *never plant deep*. Always leave the collar and seed leaves above the ground, and as you must have plenty of room to plant it as high as you please, do not thrust your plants down into the cold gravelly or sandy subsoil beneath, for if you do, your celery will never be good. You cannot possibly have good celery, if you sow it too early, and then allow your plants to stand in the seed bed till they are drawn up

weakly and spindling. I have seen some parties transplant it, and allow the plants to get again drawn up weak, and naked rooted, and then set to work in good earnest, because they saw a neighbour do so the day before, in planting his celery. They dig out a trench, one foot wide, and about the same depth, put in some dung, turn up the subsoil amongst it, or on the top of it, that possibly had never been moved before, and then thrust into this trench their long weakly plants, a good depth, as it is called, *to keep them up*; they next earth them up early, to smother them more, and expect to have good celery from this management: and when they find it fail, put the blame upon the soil or the season.

*My system is simply this.* I always trench every bit of spare ground, and throw it in ridges, as soon as any crop is off. Now many people will say, we have not time to do that; we have not strength enough; besides we are forced to keep the ground cropped to that degree, that there is no chance of trenching. But I contrive to find time in some way to trench all spare ground; by which means I always have a bit ready for successional crops, which is planned in my mind from time to time. I take my line and spade to one of these pieces of ground, measure it out at least six feet from row to row, stretching the line from end to end across the ridges, and merely shovel out a shape of a celery trench, two feet wide; if the ground has not previously been well manured, of course I shovel out the trench something deeper, to admit of manure, which should be good strong rotten dung of any kind. I then take the plants up carefully with a trowel, with good balls of earth, and plant them, if required extra large, from twelve to fifteen inches from plant to plant; if of the usual size, from ten to twelve inches; taking care never to plant deep in the subsoil, or to put the plant below the collar, for *I would sooner see half the roots exposed, than the eighth part of an inch of the heart buried.* In earthing up, never by any means begin too early, for by that plan much of the

celery gets considerably injured; and instead of muddling it about with earth ten or twelve times, once or twice, or at most three times, earthing, is quite sufficient to bring it to proper perfection. Every body knows that celery is fond of plenty of water, likewise of manure liquid; but in hot weather never water it over head, with a rose on your watering pot, but pour abundance about the roots, with a brushy stick put into the spout of the watering pot, to cause the water to come out more gentle, and not wash out the roots; using a watering pot at the same time in each hand, it keeps a man better on the balance.

MR. BARNES, in *Gardener's Magazine*.

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BEAUTY OF HARLAEM TULIP, with us (Messrs. Tyso and Son), *is very fine*. A feathered bybloemen, coming at first with rather a lemon or waxy bottom, but bleaching to a pure white as the flower advances towards maturity.

PROPAGATION OF THE ANEMONE JAPONICA.—In a leading article, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, we have the following simple method of increasing this beautiful autumnal herbaceous plant:—"If a root of this plant be taken from the ground, after flowering, it will be found to resemble brown cord, divided into a great number of ramifications. Upon its surface will be perceived a great multitude of little white conical projections, sometimes growing singly, sometimes springing up in clusters, and occasionally producing scales on their sides. They are young buds, every one of which, if cut from the parent, will grow, and form a strong young plant in a few weeks. These buds are not confined to the main trunk of the root, but extend even towards its extremities, so that every fragment of the plant is reproductive. Such being the case, he who possesses an *Anemone Japonica*, has nothing to do but turn it out of its pot, when at rest, clean its roots, chop them into pieces

about half an inch long, and then place them in some light fibrous soil, near the surface, in a gentle hot-bed, and in a few weeks he will have as many healthy young plants as he may have chopped the root into pieces. Such is the wonderful power of reproduction in this plant, to which, indeed, we have few parallels.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET has a fine drawing of *Phlox imbricata*, noticed in our last number, p. 191, and contains useful papers on Cape Heaths. Form of the Tulip (extracted from Mr. Hardy's paper). On blooming Mignonette in Winter. "The seed should be sown in the beginning of August, in open and rather rich soil. The seed should not have much water, too much moisture being very injurious. When they require watering, let it be done effectually. Pinch off the early blooms, in order that the plants may become stout and bushy, and water occasionally with liquid manure." Management of Seedling Rhododendrons and Azaleas. With accounts of the various metropolitan exhibitions.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN has engravings of a very favourite narcissus. It is, however, here called *Ganymedes pulchellus* (The Pretty Ganymedes), and well deserves its designation. We are not fond of altering old-established names, and nine out of ten of our readers, in ordering this flower from a list, would perhaps be unacquainted with its character, but might suppose it something new, whereas its old name of *Narcissus pulchellus* would give them some idea of what they might expect. *Origanum dictamnus* (Dittany of Crete), a rather tender plant, requiring protection in winter. It is well adapted for the window, rockwork, or bedding out in sheltered situations. It is here stated that this plant has been known for *two*

*thousand years*, as a medicinal herb. It is well worth cultivation. *Cerasus vulgaris flore pleno* (The Double-flowering Cherry), one of our most beautiful flowering hardy trees, blooming most profusely in the spring. *Dianthus Balbisii* (Balbis's Pink): all the tribe are pretty, and though this is not so ornamental as some with double flowers, still it is very interesting. In the part devoted to fruits, the *Ashmead's Kernel Apple* is figured, and described "as one amongst the most superior of dessert apples, both as respects its quality and duration. It also possesses much beauty, as a russety fruit, being of regular handsome form, and its skin beneath the russet being of bright yellow. It has a rich aromatic flavour, somewhat similar to the nonpareil, but sweeter."

THE FLORIST'S JOURNAL.—The embellishment is *Plumbago Larpentæ*, notice at page 410, vol. 1, and of which a high character is given for bedding out during summer. Amongst several useful papers, there is one entitled "How to procure good Stock Seed." The writer repudiates the idea of single flowers with one or two extra petals producing seed which will bring double flowers. He says, "Plant the single stocks in rich ground, as early as may be prudent, so as to have them strong before blooming; trim off all the lateral shoots, so as to throw the whole vigour of the plant into the central stem; and to further improve the quality of the first formed seed, remove the point of the main stem; and after properly ripening the remainder, sow it again upon light rich earth, and if the produce is not nearly nine-tenths double, I shall be gravely deceived. This is the practice with the Dutch florists, hence the superiority of that which we import."

THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE.—As usual, there is considerable information in this number, though we must say we are sorry to see an article, entitled "A few words to the Owners of Garden Establish-

ments." It consists of a sweeping charge against head gardeners and gardeners generally, by a "*retired under gardener*." It would have been much better had he given his name and address, as so serious a charge as is here made against a most respectable body of men, ought to be properly authenticated by the writer's name. We can truly guess who the *retired under gardener* is. He cannot shroud his writings and ideas, and any one who has been in the habit of perusing articles by the same writer, will easily recognize the style. We very much regret to see the pages of the *Horticultural Magazine* contain such an article, for we are sure such things are better let alone. Many innocent persons will be condemned for the few guilty; and we do hope, for the honour of the profession, whether as regards gentlemen's gardeners or nursery and seedsmen, for both are included, that the charges of *robbing their masters, combining with tradesmen* to effect the same purpose, &c. are too strongly drawn. If true, we trust that *it is the exception, not the rule*. At all events, the gardeners and trade generally (for we believe that not a more upright, honest, well informed body of men exists) will give small thanks to the *Horticultural Magazine*, for the article in question.

THE FLORIST contains a magnificent illustration of a newly introduced fuchsia, termed *Spectabilis*. In the *Gardener's Chronicle*, of June 13, it is thus alluded to:—"This is probably, upon the whole, the finest species yet known. The flowers are deep crimson, the petals flat and bright rich red, the stigma very large and pure white; the effect of which is to render its own *fairness fairer*, and the richness of its rosy bed richer. The leaves are broad oblong, very firm, and a dark velvety green, although they have scarcely any hairs." And again, "It is certainly a magnificent thing: quite the queen of fuchsias." It was sent to Messrs. Veitch, of Exeter, by Mr. Lobb, who found it at an elevation of between four



and five thousand feet, in the Andes of Cuenca, Peru. The contents of the number are some interesting papers by Dr. Horner, on the *Ranunculus*; Mr. Neville on the Summer Treatment of Auriculas; Piping Pinks, &c.

### Part III.

### QUERIES.

Having seen some Scotch dwarf roses, this season, a complete mass of beauty, I should be glad to have the names and descriptions of a few of the best. My garden is a light loam, would they flower well in such soil? By answering this in your July number, you will greatly oblige,  
HARRIET L——N.

[The following are fine varieties of Scotch roses:—

*King of Scots*.—Bright purple.

*Mrs. Stirling*.—Dark red.

*Shakspeare*.—Deep reddish purple.

*Mary Stuart*.—Yellow.

*Jupiter*.—Marbled white and light purple.

*Lady Rollo*.—Lilac and pink.

*Argo*.—Light Red.

*Parnassus*.—White.

*Midas*.—Dark red.

*Iris*.—Changeable light rose.

*Donna Maria*.—Blush white, with deeper tinge.

*Saxonia*.—Pink.]

I have, this spring, bought a cytissus, grafted on a laburnum, under the name of *Purpurea*; the shoots are rather pendulous, but the blossoms are yellow. Why is it called *Purpurea*? for I see nothing purple about it. I certainly did not expect the flowers to be the colour they are. I am also anxious for a few more varieties. Myself and several friends are much pleased with your descriptions of ornamental trees. Will you, in any early number, give us the names of some of the best and most attractive cytissuses, &c.?  
A RECTOR.

[We will notice the cytissuses in our next number. The variety purchased is probably *Elongatus*, certainly not *Purpurea*.]

Mine is a very small garden, and I am anxious to grow twelve pyramidal apple trees. I do not wish them all ripening together, but would like a succession. Your answer in your next number will oblige yours truly,  
HENRY JOHNSON.

Will you, in an early number, say what is the real character of the Beehive Strawberry? My plants look much like Alpines. Can it be possible that what is said about the immense quantity of fruit produced by this sort is correct?

*Manchester.*

JAMES JOHNSON.

Many of my carnations, this year, have spindled without making any increase; and this unfortunately happens to be the case with new varieties, got in this spring, such as Edmonds's Jenny Lind, Headley's Venus and King James, May's Portia, &c. What am I to do with them? for I expect they will die, after they have bloomed.

I. M.

[Cut them down, so that they may emit shoots at the first or second joints of the stem, above the surface. It is very possible, that if allowed to flower, they will be inferior. Always get your plants in the autumn.]

I wish you would tell me where I could procure the new rhubarbs, which I understand are in cultivation. I intend to have Mr. Bailey's Monarch, advertised in the *Midland Florist*, and shall be glad to know where to obtain the others.

A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE FIRST.

[We should be acting unfairly to those friends who advertise with us, were we to answer this publicly. We have hundreds of readers who are anxious to purchase new things, but the holders of them must advertise; it is for their own benefit, "not ours."]

I have had many of my ranunculuses destroyed by a greyish grub, about half an inch in length; the remaining plants looking well, I intend growing them in the same bed next year, as the compost will be older, the newness of the manure, in my opinion, having occasioned the grub. In digging the bed over in autumn, what can I apply that will completely destroy them, without causing the soil to be injurious to the plants, in spring? Would something planted on the south side of the bed, to shade the sun off, say about eight feet high, to allow for a walk between it and the bed, be of service, and what would be most suitable?

AN AMATEUR.

You will confer a great obligation by giving the following information:—Is there any stock that exceeds the old Brompton in beauty? When is the best time for sowing? In what situation and soil will it winter the best? Would pricking the plants out under an awning, to stand the winter, be of service? Are roses on their own roots as hardy as on standards? Will *Perl   des Panach  es* and other French roses stand the winter out of doors? If not, what protection is best? Which of the classes of roses are void of fragrance? Information relative to them is much desired here.

*Burnley.*

LUCY.

What will hasten the decomposition of sods, cowdung, or other manure? Should it be exposed to the sun or rain? To what purpose will it be best to apply the cleansings of a gutter down which the drainings of a farm yard have run four years, the adjacent soil being a brown light loam, and containing much rank herbage, principally yellow buttercups, of which species I have understood the ranunculus to be? It appears black and unctuous when newly got out. The turves from the sides were dug out with it. By answering the above you will oblige

A YOUNG SUBSCRIBER.

I am in want of information on the following subjects, and if you could favour me with it, I should feel much obliged. The earliest and also a few of the best sorts of rhubarb. Six of the best kinds of strawberries; also the earliest and latest varieties. Is there any potato *earlier* than the Ashleaf? if so, the name. I intend saving some gooseberry, currant, strawberry, and raspberry seed; please give the best time and manner, &c. of sowing it, and how many years would elapse before the seedlings would become fruitful. If the above be not too great a tax on your patience, you will oblige your obedient servant,

FRANK.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**ONION MAGGOTS.**—It is satisfactory to know that these pests may easily be got rid of. Some years ago, my crops suffered greatly from their attacks. To prevent them, I strewed over the beds, about the second week in May, during showery weather, some *nitrate of soda*, in the proportion of two ounces to every yard. This I repeated in about a fortnight, and the experiment was completely successful; for not only were the maggots destroyed, but my crop was most abundant. I now adopt this plan every year, whether the maggots make their appearance or not, and I am never disappointed; for the nitrate appears to be a manure peculiarly adapted to promote the growth of the onion. In dry weather, such as we have had during the last month, it should be applied in solution; but of course this should be done in an evening. Those whose crops are now suffering would do well to apply the nitrate immediately, though they must not expect the same results as if it had been used earlier.

Warrington, June 3.

G. W. H.

**R. S.**—*Agapanthus umbellatus* (Blue African Lily) is most probably the name of your plant. It requires the shelter of a greenhouse in winter.

**PARADISE STOCKS.**—These differ from the crab stock in their more dwarf and free growing habit, and in their aptitude to emit small fibres. Apples grafted on this stock are more bushy, more fruitful, and may be kept in much smaller compass than those grafted on the crab, and for this reason are preferred for small gardens. The quince has a similar effect on pears; in fact, some sorts of the latter, especially Belgian varieties, must be worked or grafted on the quince, in this country, in order that their good qualities may be fully developed.

The *Daphne cneorum* (Scarlet Garland Flower), as well as the *Daphne pontica* (Pontic Daphne), are usually propagated by layers. The *Daphne laureola* (Sponge Laurel), is multiplied by seeds; this latter sort forming a stock, on which other sorts, such as *D. hybrida*, *D. Neapolitana*, *D. oleoides*, &c. are grafted.

**PLUM SUCKERS.**—Damascenes all reproduce themselves from the roots or suckers; and some other plums, such as the Greengage, have much similarity in their seedlings; but of course, the only proper way of perpetuating any given variety, is by budding and grafting.

**ORNAMENTAL CRABS.**—In reply to an Amateur, these are conspicuous either for their flowers, fruit, or foliage. The following are very beautiful:—*Pyrus spectabilis Riversii* (Rivers's Double Chinese Crab), *Pyrus florabunda* (Bundle-flowered Crab); which, as their names imply, are both showy and floriferous. The Willow-leaved Crab (*Pyrus salicifolia*) has hoary narrow foliage, with rather a pendent habit, and makes a very ornamental tree, grafted standard high. *Pyrus baccata* (Berried Crab) produces its small scarlet fruit in great profusion. *Pyrus spuria* (Spurious Crab), with curious serrated foliage. And as a variegated plant, the *Pyrus spectabilis variegata* has the leaves most decidedly edged with yellow, in the style of a variegated holly.

**ROSES.**—The following are good and cheap, and we are sure would suit our correspondent, a "Poor Florist:—"

**MOSS.**—Prolific, White Bath, New Blush, Grandiflora, Luxembourg, and the Old Moss Provence.

**HYBRID PROVENCE.**—Blanchefleur, Emerance, Gloire de France, La Ville de Londres, Celestine, and General Foy.

**GALLICA OR FRENCH.**—Boule de Nantieu, Columella, Duc de Trevis, D'Aguesseau, Kean, and Cambrone.

**HYBRID CHINA.**—Brennus, Coupe d'Amour, Lady Stuart, Fulgens, and Richelieu Verdier.

**HYBRID BOURBON.**—Charles Duval, Glorieux, Athalia, Capt. Sisiollet, Majestueux, and La Dauphine.

[The remainder in our next.]

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR JULY.

## VEGETABLE GARDEN.

*Kidney Beans*.—These should be staked, if not previously done. Generally they are sown too thick, and for small gardens, we would recommend the plan of planting them so that they would twine up a larch stake; they would bear more abundantly, when in bloom, and would be highly ornamental. The sorts planted might be the Old Scarlet Runner; the Painted Lady Runner, with its blossoms of white and crimson; the Dutch Runner, with white flowers and very long pods; to these may be added Shilling's New Runner. These would form pillars of foliage, flowers, and *fruit*, or seed pods. They might be planted between other things, wherever there was a square yard of land at liberty; and one dozen stakes thus covered, would produce beans enough for a large family.

*Winter Greens*.—Amongst varieties worth growing, there is a beautifully variegated sort of broccoli. They are well adapted for garnishing, are perfectly hardy, and *boil quite green*; as they grow, they are cream-coloured, purple, pink, and green, beautifully intermixed. They are highly ornamental, and worth growing. Stir between the rows of *savoy*s, *Brussels sprouts*, &c.; and where not already planted, let it be done immediately.

*Onions*.—Keep the ground well stirred between these bulbs, with narrow crane-necked hoes, and keep them at proper intervals. We give a communication this month, on the destruction or prevention of the *onion maggot*, which alone we think worth the price of our twelve months' volume.

*Celery*.—We recollect, some years ago, hearing of a gentleman's gardener who found that in his situation the greater part of the dung was taken to the farm, and being short of rotten horse manure for his trenches, got a quantity of fresh cow droppings, which he put in them, and in which he immediately planted his *celery*. Though the weather was very hot, the plants hardly flagged, but speedily took fresh root, and he had a most excellent crop. Many of the best growers of *celery* allow the plants to grow very considerably, and instead of earthing them up at four or five times, perform the operation at once, or at most twice.

*Turnips* may be sown on vacant ground; or where a pig or cow is kept, *or cabbage plants* may be put in. These will be found useful. The great principle is always to keep the ground occupied. If proper manures are put in, occasionally giving a

dose of salt or lime, *land need not rest*; the more it is stirred, the more it is cultivated, the better. With respect to *turnips*, there is a nice early sort called the Red-topped Stone, which bulbs very quickly, and has a small top; to this may be added the Mouse-tail, Six-weeks, or Snowball.

*Broad Beans*.—These very useful vegetables are often attacked by a black insect, or smother fly, which increases in a surprising manner, and it will be necessary, as soon as it appears, to pull off the tops or leaves infected, and destroy them. Should the beans escape, it will be advisable to stop them, by taking off a few inches of the top of the stalk; this will increase the size of the beans.

*Peas*.—In an early situation, these may be sown for a late crop; though we would not advise them to be put in after the first week.

*Endive*.—This is excellent salading. It should be sown early in the month, for the first crop, and again, at the close, for the winter.

*Cabbage*, such as Nonpareil, Sprotborough, &c. may be sown the latter end of the month. It is full soon enough in more southern counties, but in the midlands these sorts will do well at this time.

*Eschalots* will, in many instances, require taking up. Dry them well, and bunch them for hanging.

All sorts of *herbs*, as they flower, should be cut, and hung up in the shade, to dry.

## FLOWER GARDEN.

*Hardy perennials* are much in favour. Many of the lower growing sorts require but little attention, but such varieties as *phloxes*, *delphiniums*, *linums*, *paonies*, &c. are apt to get blown over in exposed situations; to obviate this disaster, they should be neatly tied up, not in a close bunch, to their great detriment, but rather loosely, so that all the flowers may have room to expand.

Slips of many things, such as *wallflowers*, &c. may be put in. *Seedling perennials* and *biennials* also should be planted out. Any of these, of last year's planting, that are blooming now, should be carefully noted, and if any variation occurs, either in flowers, foliage, or habit of growth, from the original, we shall be most happy to receive information of the same, with specimens.

*Bedded plants*, though set out, must not be left uncared for, or untended. *Salvias* should be pegged down, and the ends of the shoots pinched off, to induce a bushy growth; *verbenas* ought to have the shoots regulated and carefully fastened; *tropæolums* and other *summer climbing plants* must be trained to their respective wires or stakes; *heliotropes*, of which *Voltairianum* is a fine and new variety, should be induced to bush, by

judicious pinching; and such plants as *cupheas*, or others of recent introduction, must have the best places assigned to them.

The means of summer decoration are now so varied, and the forms, colours, and habits of the plants so extremely beautiful and interesting, that we cannot too strongly recommend the amateur to draw largely on these beautiful things, for the embellishment of his borders.

*Annual flowers* may be transplanted in showery weather. Those which have come up too thickly, must be thinned. Many people spoil their show by allowing too many plants to flower on a certain space.

The *pink shows* will be over, and as seed is now a great object, we would advise our readers to save all they can from *smooth-petalled flowers*: there are sadly too many of the *ragged class* in cultivation, and we would not wish them to be parties to the perpetuation of so great a defect. As the petals wither, it will be advisable to extract them, slitting down the pod, to prevent the accumulation of wet. Continue to put in pipings or cuttings.

The *carnation* and *picotee* may be layered, as soon as the blooms are sufficiently forward to ascertain whether the plant is in its proper character or not. Some extensive growers strike them from cuttings, as with the pink. They make very nice plants, and are generally preferred. Use every endeavour to catch *earwigs*. This may be done by moss, placed in small pots, or by putting the heads of clean tobacco pipes on the sticks which support them. These destructive insects prey on the lower part of the petals, and generally retire to some hiding-place for the day. It is not generally known that they can fly. It will be advisable to endeavour to save seed from all early blooms of good properties. These may be cross-bred, or hybridized, as directed in our article, No. 2, on this subject. Seedlings should be pricked out, and shaded for a few days, till they have taken fresh root.

*Ranunculuses*.—These flowers have been forward this season. As the grass or foliage withers, remove them. It often happens that some turn yellow before the rest; these should be immediately taken up. We have known very valuable collections destroyed by the roots being left in the ground rather longer than was proper, when they had emitted fresh fibres, and were consequently again in a growing state.

*Dahlias*.—Tie up the laterals as they progress, *not together*, but put some sticks, two or three feet high, round the one which supports the main stem, and to these the side branches must be carefully tied, arranging them systematically, so as to allow the plant to have the full action of sun and air.

*Tulip bulbs* should all be out of the ground as speedily as possible. Do not divest them of their roots and outer husks at this time; let them dry gradually, when they may be with

safety cleaned, which, by the by, is a good occupation for rainy days. As soon as the bulbs are all up, if it is intended to renew the soil for next year's bloom, *dahlias* may be planted on the bed, as they will probably be off before planting time; but should it be intended to again grow the bulbs in the same soil, it will be advisable to put about two pecks of quick lime to a bed of eighteen yards. To eradicate any offsets or bulbs that may have struck down, the soil should be well forked up, and afterwards thrown into ridges, to receive the full action of the atmosphere.

### GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

The great pest now is the green fly. These can be kept down by constant attention to fumigation, syringing, &c. *Geraniums* out of flower may be cut down, and the cuttings put into the open border, *without* handglass or protection. They will make nice stiff plants for potting off for the autumn. The old plants must be allowed to start and make a short growth, previous to repotting. Cuttings of *fuchsias*, *verbenas*, and plants of which it is desirable to obtain stock, must be put in as they can be obtained. It will be a good time now to remove plants into shady situations out of doors, if the frames, pits, or greenhouses require painting. As *cactuses*, many of which are grown in cottage windows, go out of bloom, they must be removed to a sunny situation out of doors. They will bloom much better with this mode of treatment.

### FRUIT GARDEN.

It will be necessary to fill up all vacant spaces on the walls, by laying in and nailing those shoots which are most convenient; and breast wood, or foreright shoots may be broken in two, to induce the formation of flower buds at the base of the shoots. By this plan the fruit will also have better opportunities of ripening. We have known some people strip their wall trees of many leaves, in order to attain this end, but it proved a most mistaken idea, as the fruit made but little progress afterwards.

*Strawberry runners* may be planted out, and fresh plantations made. Keen's Seedling still holds a prominent position amid the many competitors for public favour. Will some one tell us how the Beehive Strawberry goes on, and what are its qualities and capabilities on this side the border?

In general management, we may observe, that briers, cherries, &c. may be budded; and we would direct the amateur to our first volume, for information on this subject.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## TULIPS IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

WE promised in our July number, to give some further notice of tulips which had come under our observation during the past blooming season, and in doing so, we will begin with our own collection, at the Coppice. The flower that to us had the greatest novelty, was Monument, a third row feathered rose, raised by Mr. Dixon, of Manchester, from Count de Vergennes; it carries a heavy feather, is perfectly pure, and favours its parent in form, but it will beat the Count on any stage, where both flowers are free from accidental blemishes. Agalia, feathered, is a pretty and distinct variety, the feather delicately pencilled, rather more than the standard in form, and creamy when young, but bleaches perfectly, and is a good addition to the class; it is a second row flower. Huntress (Dixon), a second row heavy feathered rose, rather long, but an interesting variety. Mitchell's Rose, a very beautiful third row flame, in the style of a good Rose Quarto, very fine, the beam rather light for the northern fancy, but it meets the feather in very pretty style. Anastasia (Gibbons), a beautiful cherry feather, rather uncertain, but when caught fine, will take a good sort to beat it. La Belle Nannette, very similar to Heroine, and, like that fine sort, steady; it would scarcely do to exhibit with Heroine, in a stand of twelve, as the judges could hardly say they were dissimilar. Arlette (Dixon), a fine variety; it has generally bloomed well this season. Mr. Wild, of Denton, near Manchester, favoured us with a bloom, for inspection, which certainly was a beat on our own. The feathering is

very beautiful in colour, being a bright light crimson, the cup is pure, but the flower appears rather tender. Amongst other striking flowers on a bed, we may notice Nonpareil (Gibbons), a fine strong-beamed flamed rose; it is, however, slightly stained, and this defect is not now tolerated by good judges. Queen Eleanor (Dixon) will very likely make a fine sort; the colour is rich, beam stout and distinct, meeting the feather in good style; it is a large flower, and will be a favourite.

In byblœmens, Lancashire Hero, with its decided black feather, was good. Gibbons's Maid of Orleans, breaking from Princess Royal breeder, only being in a feathered state, was also very fine. We may just observe here, that we do not see any very great impropriety in giving this sort a name for each character; for no one would think of receiving a strong flamed flower (Princess Royal), if they had ordered Maid of Orleans. This break appears very steady, and is a beautiful feathered flower, with a cup of snowy whiteness. Jefferies' Royal George, Walker's Union, and Lawrence's Friend, flowers of somewhat similar character, were not so good as usual, though all are highly desirable. Premier (Gibbons) was in very pretty style, short cup, pure, and the flame well defined; it does not appear to rise higher than the second row; it bears considerable resemblance to Grace Darling, and was believed by an eminent Lancashire florist, when he purchased it, two or three years ago, to be Queen Charlotte's master. Sancta Sophia is certainly not the same as Dixon's Sancta Sophia, but is hardly distinguishable from a first-rate Washington. It is very steady, and a great acquisition to any collection. In the next row to this fine sort was Elegance (Gibbons), large, with a very heavy feather; the stamens are somewhat stained, but it is a noble flower, when well grown. Perhaps one of the best byblœmens on the bed was Grace Darling. We have generally seen this splendid flower too highly coloured; this bloom was the

*happy medium*, a fair proportion of dark glossy purple, contrasting with its peculiar ivory white ground colour. The cup is excellent, and from the substance of petal, it *stands* a long time after having been blown out. We know of no flower to beat it, unless, perhaps, a first-rate Van Amburgh, such as we attempted to describe in our July number. We had thought Grace was *peerless*, but our preconceived notions received a violent check, when we saw that fine variety. However, no grower will be without them, when to be had, and, side by side, they will prove the brightest gems in any collection, *we care not how select*. Queen Philippa (Wood), a flame of a novel character, which broke last season for the first time, was severely crippled by frost. Two of the petals came in sufficient character to prove that the flower is steady, and a valuable acquisition. Amyntus, which we had in as new this season, proves to be Violet Alexander. It is, however, a fine strain of this interesting sort. Ely's Victoria is a delicately pencilled feathered bybløemen, rather too long in the cup and narrow in the petals; the stamens also are tinged, but it is, nevertheless, a pretty variety. Amyntus and Violet Alexander, alluded to above, are flamed, and as such are generally grown in the midland counties. We were much pleased with a feathered strain, which is termed Barr's Violet Alexander, which was with us truly fine, though speedily over, from the circumstance of the bloom being injured. Edgar (Naylor): we fear ours is not right, and we should be sorry to *libel* the true sort, by giving a wrong description. It bloomed early, about the same time as Count de Vergennes, to which flower it is somewhat similar in form, throwing the outside petals back; the feathering, however, was beautiful, and extremely regular. It speedily *flushed*, and the stamens were very dirty. We afterwards saw petals, at Manchester, which made us doubt the correctness of ours. We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers what the style of Edgar really is. We were much pleased with Model of Perfection (Gibbons);

the cup is good, and the feather, which is rather heavy, is decided and clean. This is a desirable sort. We saw it in much better condition last season. Enchantress (Gibbons) is one of the superior sort of flamed byblœmens. The cup is good, standing well, beam and feather very fine, will suit about the third row. As a delicately beautiful feather, we must record Violet Quarto. The white is of dazzling purity, and the marking extremely chaste. A good strain of this really scarce variety is valuable. We will not silently pass over a flower which we would recommend to the northern fancy: true it has only a stripe of light purple up the centre of each petal, and may be said by many not to be worth growing; but let them get Holmes's King, in the same style that we had it this season, and if they admire form and purity, two very essential points (we should say *the two first*), they will acknowledge this a fine variety. As a beautiful contrast on a bed, it is worth growing, on the same principle that Duke of Clarence and other fine tricolors are admitted. As a first or second row flower, according to the strength of the root, Eveque d'Amboise claims attention, being very prettily marked; and though not having the gorgeous markings of some previously enumerated, still it must be a favourite. We have now nearly gone through the byblœmens that were particularly striking, with a few exceptions, and they were Gibbons's Lady Flora Hastings, a fine short-cupped feathered byblœmen, colour in the style of Black Baguet; and Princess Royal, of which we had eight or ten magnificent flowers, flamed and feathered beautifully, cup very pure, and the anthers standing boldly out, giving the bloom a remarkably finished appearance. Prince Albert and Countess of Harrington were also in first-rate character; and last, though not least, Slater's Bijou, as its name imports, "*a jewel*," and that of the first water. In referring to a byblœmen, we often ask, is it as good as Queen Charlotte? for it must be borne in mind that her Majesty is a favourite in the midland counties. If the reply is in the affirmative,

then, as a matter of course, it will do. Well, we think Bijou is equal to the Queen in many respects, and *better* in point of form. We had it several years ago, in the breeder state; this year it broke with us, and we prize it much.

We must say something about bizarres, because, for one reason, we have suffered much disappointment with this class; all our Charles X., Defiance, Brissons, &c. though we have previously bloomed them as fine as stars, were *bad as bad could be*—not a redeeming point about them. We will, however, pass to something that *was* good, and take Leonotus Posthumous, a magnificent flame, with a deep black feather. No bed should be without this fine sort. Truth (Bromley) is a beautiful little flower; if it can be got large, it will puzzle many of the flames, the colours are so bright, and the marking all that a north countryman can wish. And now a word about a bantling of our own—"Alderman Herbert." This will, we feel assured, stand very high; as a breeder it is excellent; Mr. Dixon, of Manchester, won premier with it last season; and this year we have broken it very fine, wholly distinct from anything else, a heavy bronze flame and feather, something in the Captain White style. We must try it another year or two, to test its steadiness, when, if nothing unforeseen happens, we will give a further description of it, and introduce it among our brother florists. Who has not seen the Duke of Devonshire, feathered bizarre? Those who have not, had better walk twenty miles to enjoy the sight, than forego the gratification that we are sure this noble flower will give them. Joined to a fine cup, it has purity, brilliancy, and marking in an eminent degree. The size is large; in fact, amid a thousand, it immediately attracts attention, and the question, *What is that?* is eagerly put. It is also known as Lord Strathmore, and Monarch (Alexander's) is evidently from the same breeder. Napoleon is much like the Duke, in a flamed state. These are fourth row flowers, all of

the highest excellence. We must now refer to Pilot, the best of Gibbons's seedling bizarres. The cup is nearly perfect, of great purity, and this season it has been in better style than ever we have seen it; the feathering combined with the flame has been much darker. It is well named. Banton's Sir Harry Smith will be found a useful first row flower; it is a red feather, the cup good and very clean. It occasionally comes flamed, but that is not its best character. A variety termed Cleon, which we have grown some years in the breeder state, has broke very prettily feathered. It rises to about the third row, is very clean, and the only drawback is a cup rather too long; still, from its great distinctness, it is a sort that will have its admirers. Polyphemus, Ulysses, and Apollo Belvidere, though good, we think are too similar to be called distinct varieties; in fact, *ours are too much alike*. Ibrahim Pacha has a fine cup, great purity, flame and feather, but unfortunately bleaches on the outside, and consequently is not much liked in the *Midlands*. Lord Hawkesbury we have had fine, being something like a very good flamed Charles X. Donzelli has been anything but up to the mark, and we fear is quite a *catch flower*. Diadem has been good; it is a splendidly marked flamed bizarre, and when not too heavily flamed, comparatively clean. We have not had sufficient experience as to its steadiness, though we perceive it has been winning first at Mansfield. Surpass Optimus has also been very chaste and good; this strain is remarkably steady.

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## ON THE CULTURE OF THE STRAWBERRY.

THIS being a most wholesome fruit, and at the same time a general favourite, allow me to forward you a few remarks on its cultivation.

Many new varieties have lately been introduced from the Continent and elsewhere. Some will pass

tolerably well, whilst one or two others appear to be utterly worthless.

I have grown the following varieties, and for flavour, size, and productiveness, they cannot well be surpassed; independent of which, they are easily obtained, at moderate cost, and to any one about to make fresh plantations of this fruit, I would strongly recommend them:—Keen's Seedling, very productive, and handsome fruit; Myatt's British Queen, with very large conical berries, of excellent flavour; and Elton Pine. These will ripen in succession, Keen's first, and the Elton last.

The plants flourish best in a stout hazel loam, not too highly manured; in fact, I have known strawberries on light land, or old kitchen garden soil, which has been very rich, that made most luxuriant growth, and abundance of foliage, but as for fruit, there was none. If very strong land, it will be advisable to add lime, or soil of a gritty nature, at the same time well digging and incorporating it. Manure, *well decomposed*, must also be added; but this must not be put into the ground at the same time as the lime, as the latter acts prejudicially on the manure. Plants grown close together will not produce fine fruit. They should have at least eighteen inches square to stand on; though many first-rate growers will have two feet in the rows, and the plants eighteen inches asunder. As runners appear, they must be removed, but I would by no means recommend digging between the rows, as it completely destroys all the fibres, which it is so essential to preserve. A much better plan is to use a fork; and when the berries are swelling, an abundant supply of water may be given.

Never cut off the foliage, which, I imagine, shelters the embryo flower buds during the winter, till the plants receive their spring dressing, when it, as well as all runners, may be removed, and a layer of rotten dung laid between the rows. The dung may be *forked* in, but on no account should a spade be used.

A strawberry bed, with good management, will possibly produce well for four or five years, but successional ones should be planted, by which means first-rate fruit may always be attained. It is advisable to plant early runners, in order that they may be well established before winter, and it must be borne in mind that they do not usually bear fruit the first season; though when parties do not mind the trouble, and will place small pots, filled with compost, for the runners to root in, and then turn them out, where they are to grow, with the ball of soil entire, this may be accomplished, and a small crop of fruit obtained.

H. S. M.

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### CLASS SHOWING FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

LIVING at a distance from the metropolis, and regularly seeing the garden newspapers and your interesting periodical, in which, from its extreme utility, I take a lively interest, I am induced, from reading the late accounts of the metropolitan pink shows, to ask you how I am to ascertain, from the varieties there reported to have been the winners in the first pans, *which are the best?*

Pan showing appears to me to be a most unsatisfactory method, for I have often been at exhibitions, and on examining the first pan, have in many cases found flowers of very bad character and properties amongst the best six, nine, or twelve, as the case might be; in fact they had been added to make up the right number, and were the best the exhibitors had, though they would not even have found a place, if the flowers had been shown in classes. And I am sure that in many cases, in pans of auriculas and pans of tulips, I have seen the good thus bring the inferior flowers through the ordeal; and consequently, amateurs would be led to suppose, that because certain flowers were in the first pan, they must neces-



sarily all be the best; a conclusion which I am sure, in many instances, they would find to be erroneous. I have been told that *pans look better*. This I consider altogether a fallacy. What can be more beautiful than a well filled stage of flowers? whether scrutinized individually, with the keen eye of the enthusiastic amateur, or admired only for the gorgeous mass of beauty they present to the vision of the indifferent observer. Then again, if information is to be given as to the merits of respective flowers (a point which ought always to be kept in view), I contend that in class showing will be found the far greater means of imparting it. Here there are the flowers arranged one after the other, and the eye of the observer has not to range over several yards of flowers, as in the case of a number of pans of dahlias or roses, to ascertain which is best. He is told that Mr. Such-a-one has taken the first prize amongst perhaps half-a-dozen competitors, in pans of dahlias consisting of twenty-four, when perhaps in the last pan there may be six or eight flowers, new, or beautifully grown, as the case may be, belonging to a small grower, and these are put last, because the exhibiter has not room for a more extended collection.

Now this, I contend, ought not to be. Why not let each flower stand on its *own merits*? There is more credit, I should say, in producing the best flower in the exhibition, than the best pan, when perhaps some of the flowers comprising it are of very inferior character. And I see no reason why, if the flowers of any particular grower are so much better than others, he should not be rewarded for having taken the greatest number of prizes during the day, at the exhibition, which would be equally as honourable as winning with the first pan. I have gained more information from attending exhibitions where class showing was adopted, than by any other means. In running my eye down the class, I have been enabled to detect the "why and because"—the reason *why* the judges have placed Duke of North-

umberland pink before Gaylad, and the reason *why* Captain White tulip has been placed before the dirty-cupped Albion (of the north, not the Albion of the south, which is clean). Here then I was getting a lesson in floriculture, which all the pan showing in England could not have afforded me.

I trust that if I have taken wrong views of this subject, some of your intelligent florist contributors will set me right, which will be highly appreciated by

H. S. M.

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## THE HEARTSEASE, OR PANSY.

BY THE EDITOR.

As far back as we can recollect, roundness, or, as florists were wont to express it, *a good shape*, was one of the first and most essential points in a florists' flower; and however this property, in certain localities and by sundry florists, might be underrated, still we shall find that it is no new thing to advocate. But a few years ago, the pansy was any form you liked, except circular, and we need only refer to the floricultural periodicals of that day, to show what a rapid advance has been made, and how completely the "*splendid sorts*" of that time are now thrown into the shade. As many readers of the *Midland Florist* may not exactly understand the properties essential to constitute a show flower, though growing many seedlings of their own, we will briefly state what is requisite, and enumerate the various points of excellence.

FORM takes precedence of all other points, and under this head we would include smoothness of margin and perfect flatness of the petals. These ought to be so disposed as to form a complete circle; and in fact, when the lower petal and the two upper ones are removed, the side petals, in fine-shaped and well-proportioned flowers, should also meet at the

upper and lower parts. We also think that these petals meeting well above the eye is of great importance, making the form of "*the shield*" complete. In judging flowers, this is a point which we have always advocated. A disposition to bloom flat is also desirable; and the contrast between a rough, uneven, frilled flower, and one which, without any artificial means, will dispose its petals evenly and smoothly, exhibiting its rotundity in all its perfection, will in a moment catch the eye and fix the attention of the veriest novice in the fancy. When we allude to roughness of margin, we mean the serratures which too often are perceptible in otherwise fine and unexceptionable flowers. It is absolutely necessary that this should be avoided; for though the defect may be minute, still it tells against a bloom when in competition with one perfectly smooth. Many of the improved flowers have an indentation on the lower part of the lip; in some it is scarcely visible, but wherever this occurs, it detracts from the merits of the flower, by destroying its circular form, which is so essential.

SUBSTANCE, or thickness of petal, is the next point. Let the form be ever so good, if the flower is flimsy and the petals weak, its beauty cannot be justly appreciated; and for this reason, they should be thick and velvety in their texture, so as to enable the flower, in florists' phraseology, to "*stand well*." We certainly think that all flowers shown in stands should be inserted in nipples (tubes), rising at least half an inch from the surface; by this means, weak petalled flowers would be immediately detected, whereas, by the present system of exhibiting, they are supported by the stand. We see no good reason why they should not be shown with the petals quite clear of the stand, the same as pinks and carnations.

HARMONY, OR PROPER DISTRIBUTION OF COLOUR, is a property on which there appears to me to be a great diversity of opinion; but in all flowers we hold it to be essential that the three lower petals should agree in shade, whatever may be the colour of the

upper ones, and in selfs it is necessary that they all should assimilate. The reverse of this, I am aware, has for a length of time been allowed, and many flowers have been sent out as first-rate whose ground colour has been stained, which is as great a defect in the flower under consideration, as a stain at the base of a tulip. If the flower is a self, whether white or yellow, it must be pure and steadfast in colour, and the eye large and well defined, being generally either black or dark purple, contrasting as much as possible with the body colour. When the colour is dark, whether purple, marone, or crimson, the eye should be either yellow or white, without that shading off so apparent in some varieties. In belted flowers, or those with a margin of colour encircling the three bottom petals, it should be of a uniform width throughout. In many flowers the eye approaches too nearly to this belt or margin, which is a defect; and the less the triangular spot often seen on the lower petal is apparent the better is the flower.

SIZE, of all the properties, is the least essential to be enlarged on, as there can be no question which flower should take the precedence, when the other points of those in competition are equally balanced.

In judging a collection of flowers, we should give to form, *four points*; substance, *three*; distribution or harmony of colour, *two*; and size, *one*. And it will be highly necessary that censors should disqualify any flowers that have been unfairly dealt with, by cutting or clipping the edges &c.

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## A. FEW OBSERVATIONS ON THE PINK.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM-HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

I HAVE never yet read in your publication, any remarks upon the cultivation of the pink. This flower has made the least progress of any of the florists' flowers. The picotee has made the most

rapid improvement, and it has all arisen from the great care bestowed upon its cultivation and raising from seed.

We hear of rose-leaved pinks raised in the south, but unfortunately, when they get into our cold climate, they would, if placed in a lathe, serve for circular saws. Does nature deal with the pink as with animals, in a northern climate, that is, furnish it with an extra coat, to keep it warm? and is the fringe on the edge of the petals of the delicate rose-leaved pink for that purpose?

It is useless to expect improvement in the pink, unless we set our faces against all varieties that do not come up to the following standard. Large flower, well formed pod, good ground colour, the red lively, the purple dark, the lacing the same colour as the centre, to consist of at least fifteen petals, *above all to be rose-leaved in the strictest sense of the word*, and the centre colour to form a true circle, or, as it is termed, a moon.

The northern taste is semi-barbarous. We have pinks shown with only eight petals, carnations and picotees with ten; and all this is owing to the societies not laying down rules for the judges. No pink ought to be allowed to win, unless it has fourteen petals; and no carnation or picotee under eighteen. If this were adopted throughout England, we should soon arrive at something to be proud of. The mops of the south would look as if they had become civilized, instead of being half barbarous and ragged.

It may not be out of place just to hint at properties being published as a guide for judging florists' flowers, which are rarely adhered to, and hence all is confusion; but more of this in a separate article.

The question, how are we to obtain this desirable improvement in the pink? naturally arises. I answer, by seeding only from the best, and keeping them from the saw-edged ones. The following are a few in the right direction, and as the pink blooms and shows itself the year after it is sown, and is

easily increased by pipings, we should soon gain a little upon the old ones :—

**BLACK AND WHITE.**—Whalley's Beauty of Clayton-le-Moor, and Fairbrother's Beauty of Blackburn, are rose-leaved; Kay's Mary, and Virgin Queen are nearly so, and possess good colours.

**RED-LACED.**—Joseph Sturge, Etchell's Susanna, Falkner's Dreadnought, and Brundrett's Sir William. These are the finest edged ones out, and are rose-leaved.

**PURPLE-LACED.**—Boot's Richard Cobden, Taylor's Solon, Jones's Huntsman, Kirtland's Prince Albert, Duke of Northumberland, and Hodge's Mars. The three last are from the south.

These varieties only, if planted at some distance, in the garden, from others, and seed taken from them, would soon repay for the trouble, by producing something good. I trust that these remarks will induce a few parties to put their shoulders to the wheel, and make some advance towards the goal of perfection.

I have omitted to notice a purple-laced one, raised in Bedfordshire, that is to come out this season, and which, considering the state in which the bloom arrived for my opinion, I believe will beat all that I have yet seen. It is rose-leaved, and a model for all. It will be named Read's Mary Ann. It has been shown to the growers in London, and their opinion as to its being first-rate coincides with mine.

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## A DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF SOME OF THE MOST ORNAMENTAL CYTISUSES.

BY THE EDITOR.

THESE shrubs are highly ornamental, whether as dwarfs or grafted standard high on the laburnum. Our correspondent, "A Rector," being anxious to have some account of those which are adapted for single specimens on lawns, or for gardens, we pur-

pose noticing such as have come under our own observation, and the majority of which we cultivate as standard trees.

1. *Cytisus Purpureus*. (Purple-flowering Cytisus.)—An old inhabitant of our gardens, having been introduced in 1792. On its own root it is rather a prostrate shrub, producing its lilac purple flowers the whole length of the branches. When grafted, it makes a pretty pendulous tree.

There are now numerous varieties of this, though in *Loudon's Arboretum Britannicum*, only the one with white flowers is mentioned, the

2. *Cytisus Flora Alba*.—This is really a striking sort; the flowers are very pure white, thickly clothing the shoots; it is exceedingly pretty and distinct.
3. *C. Purpurea Pendula*. (The Weeping Purple Cytisus.)—This we obtained some few years ago, from M. L. Van Houtte, of Ghent. It is a well marked variety; the long slender shoots (grafted on a stem, four feet high) hang down like thin wires. We have it on a laburnum stock, twelve feet high, and make no doubt, that after the lapse of a few years, the points of the shoots will reach the ground. The flowers are produced in the same manner as No. 1, and are highly ornamental.
- C. *Purpurea Rosea Major*. (The Large-flowered Rose-coloured Cytisus.)—This very beautiful and distinct variety has pink flowers, with dark centre. Our specimen plant was one complete mass of bloom; in fact, the leaves were nearly hidden. It is of much closer growth than the other sorts, and will, we are quite sure, be highly esteemed.
5. *C. Purpurea Atropurpurea*. (The Dark Purple-flowering Cytisus.)—Our continental neighbours have attached a designation to this plant which its flowers do not bear out. From its title of *atropurpurea*, we should be led to expect something darker than the blooms really are. Nevertheless, it is a very distinct sort, several shades deeper than any other that we have seen. It is of rather erect habit, and very pretty and interesting.
6. *C. Purpurea Stricta*. (The Upright Purple Cytisus.)—As its name implies, of upright growth, when young; but the weight of the flowers, as the tree ages, bears down the branches, and the head assumes a conical shape. The blossoms are larger than any of the preceding, and of a pretty rose colour.
7. *C. Purpurea Elongata*. (The Elongated Purple Cytisus.)—Mr. Rivers states that this is a hybrid, between the *Elongata*, which has yellow flowers, and the purple variety No. 1. It is certainly very distinct, and wholly different from any other. The flowers are large, and produced on the branches; they are cream-coloured, and it will, doubtless, prove a very accept-

able addition to this interesting class of small ornamental trees.

As varieties which bear yellow flowers, we may mention,

8. *C. Supinus*. (The Supine Cytisus.)—This is a prostrate shrub, and makes, when grafted, a very excellent standard. The stems are dark brown, and the flowers of a rather dull yellow, with a bronzy red centre.
9. *C. Elongatus*. (Elongated Cytisus.)—One of the most graceful. The long and flexible branches, gently weeping, form a beautiful pendent tree. The flowers are produced the whole length of the branches.
10. *C. Paniculata*. (The Panicle-headed Cytisus.)—The flowers are produced very numerous, in compact heads, at the points of the shoots, which are upright. The yellow is very bright, and the tree is highly ornamental.

The preceding are some of the best varieties we are acquainted with, and we are quite sure will be highly esteemed. Like standard roses, they do not much interfere with crops immediately under them; and the artizan who wishes to make the most of his ground, may have his onions, lettuce, &c. in beds, in which, in order to combine the ornamental with the useful, he may at regular distances put in neat standards of this beautiful tribe. Neither do we know of any more interesting small trees for the limited space belonging to the suburban villa.

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THRIP.—Mr. Barnes, of Bicton, recommends to take a peck and a half of soot, and put it into a hogshead of soft water, keeping it well stirred every day, for ten days or a fortnight. This is strained through a fine sieve, or piece of canvass, into a tub, containing a peck of charcoal, and two or three lumps, or about three pounds of quick lime dropped in. In about two or three days it is strained again, and is then clear to syringe plants with. It will not only extirpate thrip, but many other troublesome insects; and is a famous liquor for syringing with, as it induces general vigour and healthiness among plants of all kinds.



## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.—◆—  
FRUITS.

**COUNT DE LAMY PEAR**—This excellent sort bears well as a standard; it is of medium size, very sweet and melting, and is ripe the latter end of October.

**BOSTON RUSSET APPLE**.—Few of the American apples succeed in this country, though undoubtedly they have many fine varieties; and for the amateur to order a collection of the best American apples, without their having been previously proved here, would inevitably entail disappointment, in addition to the expense. This variety will succeed well, being a good keeper, and in perfection from January to April. The flavour is similar in some respects to the Ribstone Pippin, very rich and sweet.

**MERE DE MENAGE APPLE**.—This is a very large dark red fruit, keeping well, and more adapted for culinary purposes than the table or dessert. It also bears well, and will, doubtless, prove a valuable acquisition.

—◆—  
SHRUBS.

EVERY one knows how useful and pretty the vincas, or periwinkles are; of prostrate habit, either green or variegated, growing in the shade, and covering the foreground of shrubberies with their neat shining leaves and flowers. The **LARGE-FLOWERING VARIEGATED PERIWINKLE** (*Vinca major variegata*) is rather new, and is especially deserving of notice, the leaves being very distinctly veined with bright yellow. It is pretty and desirable.

**DOUBLE CRIMSON CISTUS.**—This is also a plant of humble growth, evergreen, and blooming most profusely. The flowers are deep crimson, and it is well adapted for rock-work, or for flower borders.

**ARBUTUS CUNNINGHAMII.** (*Cunningham's Strawberry Tree.*)—A low-growing evergreen shrub, very interesting and pretty. The flowers are white wax-like little bells, produced on the underside of the branches. The foliage is narrow and very neat. It is a great acquisition to this family of plants.

**THE SEMI-DOUBLE CRIMSON PEACH.** (*Amygdalus Persica.*)—This very interesting ornamental tree was introduced by Mr. Fortune, from China. It is perfectly hardy. The flowers are produced early in the season, and are semi-double, the colour being a beautiful dark crimson. It will prove a great acquisition.

## FLOWERS.

### PINKS.

**Marris's Rosalind.**—A very beautiful sort, growing somewhat in the style of Headley's Duke of Northumberland, and equally smooth on the petals. The lacing is lighter than that esteemed variety, being a delicate light purple, and it will make a first rate flower for exhibition. It is not yet let out.

**Marris's Lady Jane Grey.**—This is a most lively and attractive variety, extremely constant in its lacing, which is heavy, and of a fine bright crimson. The white is good, and the flower will be prized both by florists and those who desire a striking and handsome sort for their flower borders.

**Gatliff's Tyro.**—A very handsome rose-petalled purple-laced flower. It is rather small, but when reduced to a single pod, it will be got in first-rate style.

### GERANIUMS.

**Marianne** ( ).—A seedling, not yet sold out. The flower is large, trussed well, and the form good. The lower petals are white, the upper ones have a large purple crimson spot, shading off with a lighter colour to the margin.

**Medea** ( ).—This also is yet in the raiser's hands, and is a striking and attractive variety. The under petals are of a beautiful salmon, the upper ones bright orange scarlet, with a fine and distinct blotch.

*Beauty of Clapham*.—First-rate in form, with the centre almost as white and distinct as an auricula; the lower petals are fine rose, with a slight spot of crimson on each; upper petals, deep pink, with a large and fine blotch of marone.

### RANUNCULUSES.

*Unique* (Wigg).—Worthy of its designation. Good in form, colour deep and rich crimson, heavily spotted with black.

*Miranda* (Wigg).—Sulphur, deeply edged with rich salmon; petals broad, of fine form, and large in size.

*Hebe* (Wigg).—Most excellent in form, large, the petals crowning well up, white, most delicately mottled with light rose.

The above, with some twelve or fourteen others, which have been bloomed for the first time this season, have been raised from seed, by the Rev. Samuel Wigg, of Leicester.

The following have been originated from seed, flowering this present season, in good style, with S. Moore, Esq. of Nottingham, and will vie with the choicest sorts in cultivation:—

*Mrs. Cowen* (Moore).—White, edged with marone, flower of the largest size, petals very broad, imbricating well, plenty of them, and crowning beautifully in the centre. A first-rate variety.

*Lord Ranccliffe* (Moore).—Very bright golden yellow, good depth, petals smooth.

*G. W. Hardy, Esq.* (Moore).—Yellow ground, mottled with light red, excellent form.

*Alderman Leaver* (Moore).—Orange yellow, with bronze edge, perfect in form, a first-rate flower.

*William Enfield, Esq.* (Moore).—Yellow spotted, excellent petal and form, a fine show variety.

### TULIPS.

*Othello* (Brattesby).—This new and fine variety was raised from seed of Strong's Black Prince, impregnated with Queen Charlotte. The petals are singularly stout and the cup pure; the flame is very distinct, the edges of the petals being completely feathered with a raven blackness. It is a very striking variety, and most appropriately named.

*Fame* (Mitchell).—This also is a flamed bybloemen, of remarkably good properties; short cup, of great purity and substance; the marking well defined, and is of first-rate excellence.

We believe neither of the above have yet been parted with by the present possessors.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## EARLY TULIPS OF FIRST-RATE EXCELLENCE,

FOR FLOWER BORDERS, ETC.

THESE are wholly distinct from the late varieties of show tulips, and are admirably adapted for ornamenting the parterre, in the early part of the summer, and particularly as the beds they occupy may be planted with verbenas, after they are removed. The following are mentioned in the *Florist*, as being the best :—

*Tournesol*.—Rather dwarf in growth, with double flowers, bright scarlet and yellow.

*Tournesol Panaché*.—Newer and, if possible, more showy even than the preceding, though of rather shorter duration.

*Keizar Kroon*.—A very fine large single variety, bright yellow, flaked with vivid scarlet.

*Rex Rubrorum*.—Double, deep and brilliant crimson, large, and very desirable.

*Royal Standard*.—White, beautifully striped with dark pink.

*Belle Alliance*.—A vivid red self, fine.

*New Scarlet Van Thol*.—This is a bright red self, occasionally sporting into a flaked flower, orange and red.

*Grand Master of Malta*.—Pure white, striped with crimson.

*Bride of Harlaem*.—Similar to the above.

*Superintendent*.—White, flaked and striped with violet.

*Conqueror*.—A double flower, pure white, with similar marking to the above.

*La Candeur*.—Double white, valuable for continuing long in flower.

*White Swan*.—Excellent single white.

The following are yellows :—

*Yellow Van Thol*.—A pretty dwarf variety, very distinct.

*Yellow Pottebakker*.—Late and good.

*Double Yellow*.—Very large and handsome.

We have many readers who do not care about the late show varieties, but, nevertheless, are very anxious to have their flower borders as gay as possible. The above selection will, we trust, prove useful to them, and we believe they are by no means expensive.

## SUMMER PRUNING CURRANT TREES.

WE would observe that the White Dutch (which is indeed a very superior currant) will require double the amount of stimulus in the soil to that of the Red Currant. The Red Currant, in the final planting, will merely require deep digging, in ordinary cases; if, however, the soil be poor, some manure must be added; remembering that the red kinds, naturally of gross growth, will develop less fruit-bearing side spurs when overgrown, than when of moderate strength.

The White Dutch, on the contrary, will prove fruitful, as well as luxuriant, with a most generous soil; and no marvel, for we have had a crop of berries of this kind which would nearly have weighed as much as the bush itself. They are generally, moreover, so thoroughly swollen and fed, that the most unpractised eye would readily perceive that the constitution of the plant must be heavily taxed in producing them. The red and white kinds, therefore, should always be planted on separate plots.

The general treatment as to pruning is very similar; both requiring a summer's pruning, and, we need scarcely add, a winter's dressing. The White Dutch, however, will not, under ordinary circumstances, require more than half the amount of curtailment, whether summer or winter, that the red kind requires. *That is to say, the shoots of the white may at all times be cut longer than the red.* The Dutch variety is very apt to grow unwieldy in the young shoots, especially where manure is used. In such cases, the summer-made shoots are very apt to be broken by sharp gusts of wind and rain, which so frequently occur, in our variable climate, in the latter part of June or early part of July. It is, therefore, far better to put the bushes under a course of summer pruning betimes, in order to prevent such accidents to the young wood. Our practice is to shorten the top shoots in the middle of June: this, termed "*stopping*," has been hitherto very imperfectly understood; but it has been growing in favour for some

time, with most of our best fruit cultivators. In the early part of July, we reduce the side shoots in a similar manner, taking care, however, not to admit too much sunshine on the fruit. This practice should be understood as applicable to strong growing bushes only: for when the bushes are old, or of moderate growth, such stopping is, in many cases, superfluous.

*Abridged from Maund's Botanic Garden.*

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### PROPAGATION OF PINKS.

PINKS will root as freely under a north wall as anywhere, and require less attention in shading.

Prepare a layer of spit dung (horse manure nearly exhausted of its heat), put it together thoroughly wet, and beat it down to a level surface, with a spade; if eight inches in depth, it will be quite sufficient to keep the worms from disturbing the young plants.

On this must be placed the compost for the pipings to root in, three inches deep. This should also be in a moist state, but not wet, and be moderately pressed to a smooth surface. The compost for the purpose must be of a sandy quality. Leaf mould, or decayed vegetable mould, and silver sand, sifted fine, equal parts of each. In the absence of the above, any sweet and sandy soil, in like proportion, will answer; but we give the preference to leaf mould, from its cool and retentive nature.

The pipings or cuttings must be of this year's growth; the leaves stripped to within two or three inches of the top; then, with a very sharp knife, cut each piping immediately below a joint. When thus prepared, put them into water, to stiffen; after a short period, press them into the soil, about three-quarters of an inch, and let them be about that distance from each other; give a good sprinkling of water, and as soon as the foliage is dry, place a glass over them. In three weeks they will have rooted; the glasses must then be removed by degrees, and wholly removed in a few days.

*The Florist.*

## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.

MAUND'S BOTANIC GARDEN is illustrated with the *Plum-leaved Siberian Crab* (*Prunus pyrifolia*). The *Large Yellow-flowered Calliprora* (*Calliprora lutea*), a very pretty yellow-flowering hardy bulb. It is from California. The proper compost is sandy peat, and it appears partial to shady situations. The *Showy Strawberry Tree* (*Arbutus speciosa*), a very handsome and new sort of evergreen, a native of Mexico, producing its beautiful wax-like flowers in great abundance, in June. The *Heart-leaved Nordmannia* (*Nordmannia cordifolia*), a pretty herbaceous plant, lately introduced (1846) from China. There is also a good wood engraving of *Gansell's Bergamot Pear*. This is an excellent English variety, it having been raised from seed, about the year 1768, by Lieut-General Gansell, who resided at Donneland Hill, near Colchester. It will require to be trained to a wall or paling, in the midland and northern counties. The woodcuts of *ferns, flowers, &c.* though minute, are clear and characteristic. There is, under the head of Red and White Currants, the following information relative to making cuttings:—"They may be propagated by young shoots of the previous summer, any time between the fall of the leaf and the end of March. Every bud on that portion of the cutting below the ground must be cut out, or, as practical men term it, '*blinded*.' The omission of this important item in their cultivation, will prove most tiresome, by the perpetual production of a crowd of suckers; a bad habit, which a moment's attention at the proper time would wholly obviate. The cuttings should at least possess one foot of stem above the soil, and four buds or eyes will suffice to form the head."

THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.—The contents of the July number (a double one) are varied, and the

subjects well selected, from which, amongst those likely interest the readers of the *Midland Florist*, we extract the following hint on hybridizing flowers:—“As they arrive at a state of perfection, we again suggest to our readers the advantages of impregnating the various classes of flowers it is desirable to obtain improved varieties thereof, such as carnations, picotees, pinks, ranunculuses, dahlias, verbenas, petunias, pansies, pentstemons, lobelias, pelargoniums, geraniums, and many other tribes, both of indoor and outdoor growth. With pelargoniums, carnations, pinks, &c. select those that have the best properties. Petals that are of good firm substance, not round, and smooth at the edges, &c. By a judicious selection of colours, almost all the progeny may be nearly calculated upon. In order to preserve impregnated flowers from intermixture with any inferior sorts, a separate house, or glass case, which is secured by wire framing or gauze, that bees cannot enter, should be provided. A small bag cover of gauze we have often used.” We would strongly urge these hints of our contemporary on our readers; though with all due deference, we hold the opinion that a separate house, or gauze bags, are only necessary BEFORE the flowers are impregnated, in order to prevent any farina which is not required from coming in contact with the pointals; but certainly we believe that after impregnation has taken place, the plants will be better for their ordinary exposure. We by no means pretend to infallibility in anything we advance; and if wrong, we are as ready to be set right, and as thankful for the correction, as, we trust, are any of our readers.

THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL has a good illustration, the *Fuchsia dependens*, somewhat similar to *corymbiflora*. The contents are, as usual, practical interesting papers, on floricultural subjects. We cannot pass the number without levying a contribution from Hints on raising Seedling Roses. “When ripe hips



can be gathered in October, they should be taken from the tree before they are much frozen, the seed cleaned out and at once buried in sand, placing first a layer of sand in a large pot, then a sprinkling of seed, and again more sand, continuing them alternately till the pot is full. The seed is thus to be kept till the following April, when it may be sown in the usual way, in pans of light loam, and plunged into a moderate hot bed. Some of it will come up the same season, and the remainder in the following. The young plants should be potted off as soon as they can be safely handled, and afterwards be treated with a frame, and nursed, till they can be trusted out of doors."

THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE contains an excellent article on Alpine or Rock Plants, with full description as to their height, time of flowering, propagation, and treatment. On British Wild Flowers. Orchids for House Decoration, &c. At page 328, we have the following observations:—"Scarcely an annual exists, which usually dies at the close of the season, after ripening its seed, but may be made to retain a vigorous existence, if its inflorescence (flowers) be removed as speedily as formed. *Mignonette* is a very familiar example; for this may be allowed to bloom, but if its flower stalks are cut down before the seed vessels are perfected, it becomes woody and shrubby, and will live and bloom three or more successive years. If allowed to ripen its seed, it dies the same autumn."

THE FLORIST is embellished—with what? Why, with what a fancy pelargonium ought not to be. Many things in this world improve by contrast, and we presume these figures are given to show the amateur and young beginner the mighty difference between flowers with smooth well-formed petals and those of a contrary character. We have a few more "Stray Thoughts on Roses," by Mr. Rivers, which

are very interesting. As we can have no better authority, we shall take the liberty of "*impounding some of these strays*" in the *Midland Florist*. He alludes with great truth to the multiplicity of new roses sent out by our French neighbours, who, apparently, trusting to the floricultural mania of purchasing anything new, with which we are imbued, send large quantities out with the most attractive and high-sounding characters, which, on being proved, are really not so good as many old sorts in cultivation. He observes, the real lover of roses, instead, therefore, of planting a bed of unknown novelties, should select those which have been proved; and he gives the following hybrid perpetuals as really good, and plants of which may now be obtained at a moderate price:—

1. *Auberon*.—Crimson, habit compact, rather dwarf.
2. *Augustine Mouchelet*.—Very brilliant in dry weather, habit more robust than No. 1.
3. *Baronne Prevost*.—Bright red (how *very* brilliant it has been this season), habit vigorous and robust, fit for a clump in centre of a lawn.
4. *Comtesse Duchatel*.—Bright rose, flowers most elegant and perfect in shape, habit compact medium.
5. *Dr. Marx*.—Brilliant crimson, habit robust, vigorous, and rather tall.
6. *Duc d'Aumale*.—Brilliant crimson, habit rather more dwarf than No. 1.
7. *Duchess of Sutherland*.—Bright or sometimes pale rose, habit vigorous, equal to No. 5.
8. *Lady Alice Peel*.—Deep pink, a most perfect and beautiful rose, habit compact and rather dwarf, like No. 1.
9. *La Reine*.—Brilliant glossy rose, flowers large, perfect in shape, and most splendid. This very fine rose does not bloom so well early in the season as towards its close. Habit rather dwarf, about equal to No. 1.
10. *Madame Laffay*.—Rosy crimson, habit about equal to No. 2.
11. *Marquis Bocella*.—Very pale flesh, habit dwarf, more so than any of the preceding, and very compact.
12. *Robin Hood*.—Bright rosy pink, a most elegant and beautiful rose, habit about equal to No. 2.

The number also contains interesting papers on Raising the Pansy from Seed; the *Ranunculus*; the *Auricula*; &c.

## Part III.

## QUERIES.



Do you consider that any member of a floricultural society has the liberty of keeping a stock of the same flowers in *three different gardens and showing them as one*? One of our members keeps a *large stock of pansies* in his own garden; another, containing the *same varieties*, in his father's garden, about a hundred yards distant; and another in his brother's garden, about two hundred yards distant; and when the day of competition comes, he takes the best out of each bed, and shows them as the produce of one. I believe that he plants them, and generally looks after them; but after doing all this, do you think that such a practice should *be allowed*? or *is it allowed in any society that you know*? I have taken a considerable interest this season in reviving an *almost dead society*, and it is because I consider such a practice very detrimental to the society and unjust towards the other members, that I have troubled you; I hope, therefore, you will give me an answer in the next number of the *Midland Florist*, and by so doing you will much oblige your constant reader,

S. E.

[It is decidedly wrong; and *very unfair* towards the other exhibitors. *What say your rules*? If you have not a law, confining each member to showing only the produce of his own garden, you ought to have, or your exhibition will soon be ruined.]

I have two rows of strawberries, which have been planted two years next August. Last summer, they bore neither fruit nor flowers. Last back end, one row was cut down to the ground, the other was well manured with rotten horse dung, and this spring they are making very few flowers; indeed there is not above one plant in twenty flowering. Will you have the goodness to say in your next number, what I ought to do with them? A neighbour tells me they never will *bear*, as they are *male plants*; and advises me to pull them up. The soil, I fancy, is not bad, as it has only been a garden three years.

A NOVICE.

Hull, May 20.

I shall be glad to have a list of herbaceous perennial plants, similar to those in your first volume. I have purchased those recommended by you, and am highly pleased with them. Will you kindly favour your readers with descriptions of delphiniums, or perennial larkspurs?

M. B.

My gooseberry trees have been strangely affected this season. They put out well, and were covered with fruit, when suddenly part of the leaves dropt off, and others appeared mildewed. I could perceive no insect, or any apparent cause. Can you point out a remedy, or what would you advise? J. BATES.

Can you account for the following very singular phenomenon? Some time ago, I bought a garden, in which, amongst other trees, was a laburnum. I did not, at the time, perceive that it differed from the common one. It has this summer bloomed most singularly. Some of the blossoms have been yellow, others of a pinkish cast, whilst a small branch has grown out of a larger one, wholly different in appearance to the rest of the tree, having small leaves and pink pea-shaped flowers. Is it a fresh variety? or can you tell me its name? A reply in your next number will oblige yours truly,

HENRY SMITH.

What are the names of a few of the best pinks you have seen this season? Perhaps you will give the names of half-a-dozen that will be worth inquiring for. WM. JOHNSON.

[The following, if attainable this season, will, we are quite sure, suit our correspondent:—

*Young's Double X.*—A very fine sort. Plenty of petal for the northern fancy, but with guard leaves as large as a picotee, and perfectly smooth leaves. Very constant in its marking.

*Marsden's Jenny Lind.*—Excellent form, dark lace, the white very pure.

*Read's Mary Ann.*—A fine rose-leaved variety. This will be a great favourite.

*Marris's Rosalind.*—Extra form, petal and lacing, colour rosy red.

*Cant's or Maclean's Criterion.*—One of the best; will suit most growers, unless extremely critical.

*Hudson's Duke of Devonshire.*—Though not exactly new, when in its best character, it is very fine. We have seen it so this season.]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



**RANUNCULUSES.**—AN AMATEUR.—Dress the beds with quick lime, as soon as the roots are taken up. Hornbeam, which may be obtained of almost any nurseryman, and which may be had four or five feet high, will make a most excellent screen, and may be kept very neat by clipping.

**FRANK** (in answer to).—*Rhubarbs*.—Monarch, Pontic, Sanguinea, Prince Albert, Linnæus, and Myatt's Victoria.

*Strawberries*.—Keen's Seedling, Alice Maud, British Queen, Downton, Elton, and

The True Ashleaf Kidney is the best. Mr. Cuthill, of London, cultivates it extensively for the market. If there were any earlier or better for that purpose, he would most certainly grow them.

*Strawberry Seed* should be washed clean from the pulp, as soon as ripe, sown immediately, on a light vegetable soil, and covered very slightly. The plants will soon make their appearance, and many of them bloom the following spring.

*To raise Gooseberries from Seed*.—The better plan is to select fruit of the largest size, and best form and quality. The seeds may be sown immediately, or early in the spring. The following autumn, the young plants should be put out in very rich soil, in order that their qualities may be speedily tested. The currant and raspberry seeds may be similarly treated. The young plants will bear the second year.

**SOIL AND COMPOST HEAPS**.—A YOUNG SUBSCRIBER.—The cleansings of the gutter alluded to will make a valuable compost, and, dug into the ground in winter, would be highly beneficial to any part of the garden. Alternate layers of sods and cowdung would also be very good, and would speedily become in a fit state for use. We should say that exposure to sun and rain would not be advisable; the cowdung would contain sufficient moisture; and most of our best cultivators now either keep their compost under sheds, or thatch it down with straw, to prevent the action of the weather.

**STOCKS, ROSES, ETC.**—LUCY.—We think that when well grown, the Brompton is the finest. There are several varieties raised by the continental growers, which are very fine. Brompton stocks will endure the winter best when well established on poor soil, with a northern exposure; rich soil induces a gross habit, which makes against their hardiness. Potting the plants in small pots, and keeping them in frames during the winter, and planting them out in very rich compost, in the spring, would, we think, be preferable to covering them with an awning. Roses on their own roots will generally last longer than those on briars, and are preferable on some soils. Perle des Panachées and other French roses (Gallicas) are sufficiently hardy to withstand our winters. Noisettes, Bourbons, and some of the Chinese roses have less fragrance than the Provence, Hybrid Perpetuals, the Tea-scented Chinese, &c.

**SELECT AND GOOD ROSES.—A POOR FLORIST.—HYBRID PERPETUALS.**—Madame Laffay, Lady Alice Peel, William Jesse, La Reine, Duchess of Sutherland, and Dr. Marx.

**BOURBON.**—George Cuvier, Souvenir de Malmaison, Proserpine, Souchet, Paul Joseph, Gloire de Paris.

**CHINA (*Indica*).**—Cramoisie Superieur, Archduke Charles, Clara Sylvian, Madame Breon, Mrs. Bosanquet.

**TEA-SCENTED CHINA.**—Eliza Sauvage, Josephine Malton, Silene, Triomphe de Luxembourg, Mansais, Bougere.

**NOISETTE.**—Eclair de Jupiter, Luxembourg, Miss Glegg, Pourpre de Tyr, Solfaterre, Nemesis.

**TWELVE APPLES FOR A SMALL GARDEN.—HENRY JOHNSON.**—June Eating or Jenneting, Marx Codling, Burton Pippin, Pike's Pearmain, Lord Lennox, Spencers' Favourite, Ribstone Pippin, Travelling Queen, Blenheim Orange, Wollaton Pippin or Court Pendu Plat, New Bess Pool.

**THE BEEHIVE STRAWBERRY.—JAMES JOHNSON.**—We have not yet received any favourable account of this variety, except from Mr. Matthewson. Appearances are very much against it.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR AUGUST.

### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

IN many situations, the beginning of this month is quite soon enough to sow early *cabbage seed*. Formerly, the 12th of August, or thereabout, was the time; but some of the new varieties, not being so apt to "*run*," are often sown in July. We find few better sorts than the Improved Nonpareil and the Enfield Market Cabbage. The latter is rather the largest of the two, but both are excellent.

**Turnips.**—The Red-topped Stone, and Snowball may still be got in; and ground that has been cleared of *peas*, *Tripoli onions*, *cauliflowers*, &c. should immediately be dug and sown. By attention to these matters of succession, and losing no time in the operation, plots of ground may be made doubly productive.

**Cucumbers**, in the open ground, must be carefully attended to. We recollect seeing some grown a few years ago, at Mr. B. Law's, Long Itchington, near Leamington, extraordinarily fine. His plan was to thin and peg down the branches, not allowing the plant to make too many; and his great adjunct to careful management was liquid manure.

**Lettuce.**—The past has been a good season, few, comparatively speaking, having run to seed. To stand over the winter,

seed may be sown the latter end of the month. There is the Brown Dutch, a low-growing spreading sort, but very hardy, and to cut small in early spring, is excellent; then there is the Bath, a good coss lettuce, extensively grown; and the Hardy Green. We prefer the two former.

*Tripoli* and other *onions*, to stand over the winter, are sown this month. We would advise drilling them, and when they are up, to be well worked between, with the small crane-necked hoe, so strongly recommended by Mr. Barnes, in his excellent article.

*Brussels sprouts, savoys, curled broccoli, cauliflower broccoli, &c.* for spring planting, should be sown. Autumn-sown plants generally do best in the midland counties.

*Cauliflower seed*, for pricking out either in frames or sheltered situations, should also be got in, the latter end of the month.

*Tomatoes*.—We wish more of our readers grew this singular and wholesome vegetable. It may be used in a variety of ways; either stewed green, pickled, preserved, dried like figs, or as sauce, it is excellent. It is very little trouble, only requiring a rich soil and warm situation. It is also very productive. Those who have planted them against their palings, must carefully train them as they grow, or the weight of their produce will break the branches.

*Celery*.—Water as requisite. Those who have gardens near sewers, or where the refuse washings of houses run, should occasionally give their plants a dose. One of the best growers of *celery*, in this part of the country, has a ditch from a populous neighbourhood running through his garden; he liberally uses this sewage water, and his crops are most luxuriant.

### FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

If *seedling carnations* and *picotees* have not been planted out before this, it should be attended to as soon as the weather permits. After a shower or two has fallen, will be the best time, otherwise they must be carefully shaded. All early blooms which have been impregnated, with a view to obtain seed, should have the petals extracted as they wither, and the calyx or pod slit down, to prevent moisture lodging in it, which is certain destruction.

Gather *polyanthus seed*, and plant out seedlings. *Pink beds* should be made, and the pipings which are rooted planted out where they are to bloom. Those intended for sale or exchange may be put much thicker, on store beds; but it is highly essential that those intended for exhibition next year should not be disturbed, after they have been once planted. A second crop of pipings may now be put in, if required.

*Pansies*.—These have been lately grown in pots, in small frames, for exhibition. We believe that Mr. Turner, of

Chalvey, one of the best cultivators in the neighbourhood of London, is very successful with them, in this way. It will be advisable, where parties have the convenience, to put some in small pots, in order to test this system. Prick out seedlings, and continue to strike cuttings.

*Ranunculuses* must be carefully stored away. If the roots require dividing, it had better be done before they get dry, otherwise they are apt to break. They may be cleaned from dirt and fibres at another opportunity.

All *bulbs* whose foliage has turned yellow should now be out of the ground. *Tulip seed* must be stored away. It is advisable to keep it in its capsule or seed vessel, till wanted. Beds for offsets should be prepared, and that too with as much care as for the best bulbs. Well-grown maiden roots generally produce the best flowers, and every attention should be given to them, in order to ensure their healthy growth. The small roots may be put in the latter end of this month, as many shrivel up, if kept out of the ground till the regular planting time.

Propagate all sorts of plants for bedding out, such as *verbenas*, *heliotropes*, *salias*, *petunias*, &c. The cuttings may be put round the edges of pots, in a small frame, and must be carefully attended to. They will speedily strike root. We shall have something to say shortly on window gardening. Hundreds of our readers are little aware what a source of enjoyment is in store for them in this matter.

*Scarlet Geraniums*, of which there are now so many excellent varieties, should have cuttings put into the open ground. They are so strong, and so gross in habit, that they require no glasses, or shading, but will root freely in any suitable soil in the garden.

Look to *climbing plants* in the open ground; regulate and train their shoots, and keep them neatly tied. Gather all seeds as they ripen, *perennial lupines*, &c. and cut down the flower stalks.

Sowings of flowers to bloom next summer, *French honeysuckles*, *scabiouses*, *giant stocks*, all sorts of things, if it is a *pinch* only, must now be made.

All sorts of *budding* may now be performed. This is generally the nurseryman's province, yet many amateurs are very expert. Our first volume may be consulted as to the method.

Cut off all decaying *rose buds*. Perpetuals, Bourbon, and Chinese roses will bloom much stronger in the autumn, by adopting this precaution.

*Greenhouse Plants* which are out of doors must be carefully attended to. Cut down long straggling plants of *petunias*, *geraniums*, &c.

Whatever mending, painting, &c. that the greenhouse, frames, &c. require, had better be done at this season.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.



## DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ON PINKS.

BY JAMES LIGHTBODY, FALKIRK.

*Hodge's Melona*.—This is a fine show variety; smooth petals, gracefully cupped, with regular red lacing, rises well in the crown, and fine outline.

*Lee's Joseph Sturge*.—A pretty flower, too thin of petals, lacing bright red, comes very steady in character, the petals reflex much, the size of bloom small, tolerably smooth in the petals.

*Mills's Lady Flora Hastings*.—A fine variety for exhibition, having a splendid form, with petals of great substance; the white is pure, and the lacing, of reddish purple, is well laid on; the petals are quite narrow enough, and very slightly serrated.

*Creed's President*.—A strong grower, smooth petals of good substance, at times unsteady in the lacing, which is purple; the petals do not open well, frequently coming crumpled.

*Smith's Princess Royal*.—At times comes a little run, or confused in the lacing, which is broad, and of a bluish purple; the petals are of good substance, slightly cupped, and not so smooth as could be wished; the outline is round, and the blooms are of good size; it is a fine show flower.

*Smith's Oxoniensis*.—Very like the preceding in character, except being larger, and more serrated in petal.

*Smith's Diana*.—Large, with clear white ground; the lacing, of a rosy purple, comes well; the petals rise well in the centre, and are tolerably smooth.

*Smith's Whipper-in*.—This was sent out last autumn, and has fully justified the character given by the raiser. It is a tall grower, and a very large flower; the petals are of splendid substance, with even reddish purple lacing, showing the white margin, which is a point of great beauty; at opening, the ground is rather creamy, but soon clears up; in general the petals rise well in the centre, though some of my later blooms have come quite thin enough.

Mr. Smith has evidently been paying great attention to the improvement of the pink. He was kind enough to forward me petals of another seedling, named *Hark-forward*, which were beautifully smooth.

*Willmer's Laura*.\*—This also was sent out last autumn, and is a truly magnificent variety. The outline is very fine in form, being perfectly round; the petals rise well to the centre, and are of good substance, gently cupped, and smooth; the lacing is of a lilac purple, broad, and well laid on. It seems a strong grower.

*Hand's Pilot*.—A pretty-lacing variety; the petals are thin and rather serrated. This flower is deficient of petals to form a crown, and the petals also divide into sections; of course this defect may be obviated in dressing, but on the plant it is too apparent.

*Bell's Benjamin* is one of the new varieties, sent out last autumn. It is red laced and comes well, the form pretty good, petals thin and rough enough. I have hopes of this flower improving much, as my plants were not strong.

*Bell's Fanny*.—A large flower, the lacing, light purple, is laid on as distinctly as could be wished for in a picotee; it has fine substance of petal, but the outline is scarcely round, which is its principal defect.

*Looker's Jane Sarah*.—A very distinct variety; red lacing, nearly scarlet, well laid on; the petals scarcely smooth enough, and inclined to be thin. This is a new sort, and I have no doubt but it will much improve.

*Looker's William Colcutt*.—A showy flower, with heavy lacing, of a brownish purple; quite coarse enough in petal; a free bloomer.

*Looker's Brilliant*.—Also very showy; the colour of the lacing is peculiar, being of a singular mixture of crimson and purple. Mr. Looker's flowers have all long pods, and seem to come true in the lacing.

*Looker's Achilles*.—A beautiful sort, very perfect in the lacing, which is of a dark red. It may be objected to as being deficient of petals, but I prefer a flower of distinct and beautiful character like this, to those known as *bursters*, which come a very mass of confusion.

*Maclean's Criterion*.—In this superb variety we have an approximation to, if not a realization of perfection of petal, in form, substance, and smoothness on the edge; it laces very correctly, the colour red; its only fault is deficiency of petals to form a crown. Every cultivator would do well to possess this flower, as in it, I trust, we behold the progenitor of a new race.

\* In the February number of the *Midland Florist*, a correspondent, signing "Amator Florum," mentions this variety as being let out at the extravagant price of 10s. 6d. per pair. In justice to Mr. Willmer, some explanation should be offered; for if I have been correctly informed, *Laura* bloomed for the first time last year, and it was only at the repeated solicitation of parties who had seen it, that Mr. W. consented to gratify them by parting with it. At the time he did so, I believe his whole stock was only twenty-one pairs and a half, from which, supposing he sold all, Mr. W. would scarcely require a purse in aid of *caoutchouc* to hold the proceeds.

*Headley's Duke of Northumberland*.—Round in outline, the petals smoother than in most varieties, well laced with dark purple. The cultivator should only leave one bloom on a stem, and be careful to keep the sun's rays off the flower, as the colour would be quickly absorbed by its influence. The plant is inclined to be shy in growth.

*Hall's Queen of England*.—This is also a shy grower. The form is fine, with delicate purple lacing; the petals smooth, combined with substance. It is a first-rate variety.

*Kirtland's Lord Valentia*.—Petals of fine substance, slightly serrated; the lacing broad, and of a rich crimson; blooms large. This is a magnificent variety, when carefully bloomed.

*Kirtland's Gaylad*.—A tall grower, rather thin of petals; the petals, however, are broad, and of famous substance, with reddish purple lacing. This flower produces abundance of pollen, and from its fine form of petal, seems a capital variety to impregnate with.

*Kirtland's Dr. Doubeny*.—In form much like Gaylad, but not so large a flower; the lacing is of a delicate lilac purple. It is a pretty variety.

*Bragg's George Glenny*.—A favourite with southern growers, but with us does not rise well in the centre; the petals are smooth, or nearly so, but, except the guard, exceedingly narrow; it is also deficient in lacing well. This variety contains about sixty petals, consequently is a *burster*. Mr. Glenny, in his diagram of form in the pink, represents forty petals as constituting perfection; his namesake has only about twenty petals more than his standard, of which had it been deficient, would have added much to its usefulness as a show flower.

*Kirtland's Prince Albert*.—A showy variety; the lacing, of reddish crimson, comes very steady; the petals, slightly serrated, are narrow enough, and inclined to fold back. It is well worthy of being cultivated in the most limited collection.

*Henbery's Rubens*.—Something in form like the preceding, but rises better in the crown; the petals are of fine substance, smooth, with perfect lacing of a rich dark purple, the ground colour is a clear pearly white. Although this fine variety may be classed as a *burster*, it dresses well, and with a little care, the calyx can be easily prevented from splitting. The india-rubber bands, which Mr. John Dickson recommends for carnations, would answer admirably for pinks which are short in the pod, such as this variety, Great Britain, &c.

*Norman's Henry Steer*.—A full built flower, yet does not burst in the calyx; it laces beautifully, and is tolerably smooth; at first opening, creamy in the ground; the petals are apt to sectionize, if I may so express it. This variety looks well in a stand.

*Kerr's Harriet*.—Fine form, rising well in the centre ; the petals are slightly deficient in substance, and serrated ; the lacing, scarlet, is beautifully laid on. This is a strong grower, and a capital variety for exhibiting.

*Fairbairn's Beauty*.—A beautiful flower, and well named ; the petals gently cupped, laced with light red ; the shape something like Hodges's Melona.

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## THE BEST FRUIT TREES FOR SMALL GARDENS.

BY THE EDITOR.

[Continued from page 294.]

### PLUMS.

THESE delicious fruits are general favourites, and being hardy and easily cultivated, ought to have a place in every garden. The Shropshire Damson, or, as it is generally called in the midland counties, "The Damascene," is extremely prolific, and from the circumstance of its bearing well as a bush or a pyramidal tree, joined to its excellent qualities for preserving, &c. is most serviceable where the space is limited. As a hardy and free-bearing sort, the Orleans is a decided favourite. An American variety, called Smith's Orleans, has been introduced, and is said to be very large and fine, though how far it will bear out this character in England remains to be proved. Then we have the Violet, very early and very good ; and as a most prolific variety, we may mention Mrs. Gisborne, a yellow plum ; but we only allude to it here to advise none of our readers to plant it : as the fruit ripens it falls off, and when gathered for market, is extremely susceptible of shaking,—turning of a dirty brown colour. The Greengage is well known as first-rate, both as to flavour and cropping. We have some old trees in our orchards, which bear most profusely, and though so far north, invariably ripen off their crop well. As a novelty in plums, we may mention a provincial sort, raised in the immediate vicinity of Nottingham,

known by the euphonious appellation of "Johnny Roe," and taking its designation from "*one Mr. John Roe*," the raiser. It is *propagated easily by suckers*, in the way of the damascene; is of the largest size, dark purple, round, late, and handsome. Though rather coarse, it is a good market plum, and being a sure bearer, ought to be better known. We have had a quantity of this sort in Nottingham market, in October. Coe's Golden Drop is a splendid late yellow plum, hanging on the tree till the fruit shrivels, when it is equal to any sweetmeat. It is a great and sure cropper. It will, however, require a paling or wall, in the northern counties, to develop its fine qualities. If bitten when ripe, it is impossible to keep its highly saccharine juice in the mouth. Whoever has a suitable situation, ought to grow it. Then we have the Caledonian, known also as the Goliath, a very fine sort, of the largest size, but coarse. Dovebank, a nearly black plum, good bearer, and robust. As half a dozen hardy and good sorts, we may safely recommend

<i>Violet</i> .—Ripens in July and August, according to situation.	<i>Greengage</i> .—Aug. (latter end.)
<i>Orleans</i> .—August (middle).	<i>Washington</i> .—September.
	<i>Dovebank</i> .—Sept. (latter end.)
	<i>Caledonian</i> .—Sept. (latter end.)

As newer varieties, of great excellence, the following six will be found hardy and of fine quality:—

- Knight's Green Drying Plum*.—Very large, rich, and excellent.  
*Quetsche St. Martin*.—Hardy, a great bearer, very good.  
*Guthrie's Apricot*.—A north country (Scotland) variety, large, a great bearer, yellow, and a most excellent plum.  
*Fellenberg*.—Ripens in October, and is therefore valuable; it is also of the largest size, and very rich.  
*Huling's Superb*.—A very large plum, of fine flavour; colour greenish yellow.  
*Ickworth Imperatrice*.—A first-rate sort; it appears well adapted for drying, and is hardy and a good bearer.

None of the above are expensive, and any good nursery can supply them.

## · DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF NEW TULIPS.

BY MR. J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, MANCHESTER.

- Acastus*.—A second row flamed bybloemen, sent to me by a foreign amateur. The colour is not extra dark, but good. It promises to be an addition to this class.
- Admiral Byng*.—A second row flamed bybloemen, form extra, bottom pure, an excellent marker, in the style of Violet Wallers. Broke from a breeder unknown, in 1846.
- Anna Maria*.—A second row flamed rose, of excellent form and pure bottom; the colours are rich, and it is a steady and scarce variety. Broken by myself, in 1845, from a collection of purchased seedlings.
- Arnoldii*.—A second row flamed bybloemen, form good, bottom pure, stamens slightly tinged at the top, white good, and the colour a rich black.
- Anselms* (Slater).—A second row feathered bizarre, broke from a breeder raised from seed mixed in 1847. The form is good, and the bottom pure, excepting a slight tinge under the stamens, like San Joe.
- Andromeda*.—A second-row rose, raised by Mr. Walmsley, of Lancaster; is generally flamed, but sometimes comes feathered, only the bottom is not a good white, the cup long, and the colours apt to run. It is only a bed flower, and does not merit a place in any choice collection.
- Ariette*.—A second row feathered rose, raised from seed by Mr. Butler, and sold when three years old, with several others, to Mr. Dixon. The form of the flower is not good, although it would be termed so, if the petals did not hang so loose; they do not fit close; it does not shoulder, but is inclined to be tun-dished; the white good, the bottom pure, the feathering a rich scarlet, and the petals rather thin.
- British Queen* (Cornell).—A second row flamed bybloemen; the form good, the bottom pure, the feathering almost black.
- Boniface* (Slater).—A second row flamed bizarre, broke in 1848, from a breeder raised from mixed seed. Although the cup is *rather long* and the petals narrow, yet the splendour of its marking equals any variety cultivated. The bottom is pure and the colour dark.
- Catalani*.—Proper name *Cerise Blanche*; it is also called *Ponceau tres Blanc*, and *La Tendresse*.
- Charles Martel*.—A third row flamed bizarre, raised from seed by Mr. Lightbody, of Falkirk, and broke in 1846 by myself; the form is very good, the bottom pure, the colour a dark brown, and the yellow bright. This variety is a shy increaser, and the whole stock will not exceed two blooming roots and one offset. It is one of the steadiest sorts in cultivation.

*Catharina* (Taylor).—A first row feathered bybloemen, raised from seed by a florist, named Clegg, near Oldham, and at his death passed into the hands of another florist, named Taylor. The cup of this flower is long, the base pure, but narrow, and the feathering dark. With many florists it is considered equal to any feathered bybloemen in cultivation, but I must differ with them, for no flower can be first-rate, except it has form and bottom ; it is, notwithstanding, very neat and steady.

*Conqueror* (Slater).—A second row feathered bizarre, which bloomed as a breeder for the first time in 1843, and broke the following year. The flower is large, the cup good, bottom pure, petals uncommonly broad, ground colour rich, and feathering the colour of *Surpasse Catafalque*. It is uncommonly steady, having every season come fine ; the whole stock does not consist of more than six pieces.

*Cosmo*.—A second row flamed bizarre, raised from seed by the late Mr. Samuel Ogden, of Harpurhey, and bought at his sale, some years ago. Broke in 1846. The cup is good, the bottom pure, and it is very steady.

*Cyrus*.—A third row feathered bizarre ; the cup good, the bottom pure, the ground colour a rich yellow, and the feathering dark. This variety has been broken this season (1848), and promises to be the best feathered bizarre in cultivation.

*Dangerous*.—A second row flamed bizarre, raised in the south, by a florist, named Dark. The form is good, the bottom pure, the colour of the feather same as *Surpasse Catafalque*.

*Don Cossack* (Dark).—A second row flamed bizarre, raised by the same individual as *Dangerous*. It is evidently a seedling from *Polyphemus*, although different in form, foliage, &c. ; the cup is extra, the bottom pure, the ground colour deeper than *Polyphemus*, and marks in the same style ; it is very steady, and the best flamed bizarre in cultivation.

*Duke of Sussex*.—A second row flamed bizarre, sent to me from the south ; the form not good, petals narrow at the top, and tinged under the stamens.

*Democrat*.—A second row flamed bybloemen ; the cup good, bottom pure, colour rather darker than *Incomparable*, and a very desirable variety. Raised from seed by Mr. Butler, and bought by Mr. Dixon, when three years old, and by him first bloomed.

*Earl de Grey*.—A third row flamed bybloemen, of good form and pure bottom ; it is a steady marker, the flower large, and the colours good. Broke in 1845, from a breeder unknown, and has only made a small offset since that time.

*Earl Ellesmere*.—A first-row feathered bybloemen, of good form and pure bottom, broke in 1847 ; it is first rate, and supposed to break from a breeder obtained from the south ; the colour dark and white good.

*Earl Derby (Slater).*—A third row feathered bizarre, raised from mixed seed, broke in 1848. The form is good, the bottom pure, the ground colour bright rich yellow, the feathering dark brown, and the flower large. The feathering in this bloom was perfect, and did not break in any part of the petals.

*Edith Plantagenet.*—This variety has also been sent to me as *Hooker's General Gough*, but which is the proper name will not signify. It is a third row flamed bybloemen, the form good, the bottom a deep primrose, and will never bleach out in the north, if it ever does in the south.

*Fenelon.*—A second row dark coloured flamed bybloemen, short cup, bottom pure, and first-rate.

*Faranelli.*—A third row flamed bizarre, of good form and bottom, the ground colour equal to San Joe, broken from the breeder in 1847, origin not known; it is likely to prove a good stage flower.

*Fairy Queen (Bromley).*—A first row feathered bybloemen, cup rather long but good, bottom pure, feathering dark, very steady.

*Goldham's Emperor.*—A third row flamed bizarre, the form good, the bottom pure, the pencilling extremely beautiful, and the colours same as Charles X. *alias* Royal Sovereign; a first-rate stage flower.

## ON THE CULTURE OF CELERY, OR THE APIUM GRAVEOLENS.

HAVING been successful in the culture of this most useful esculent, for the last three years, I deem a few practical remarks on its treatment will not be totally unavailable to the readers of your valuable publication. It is a plant belonging to the class and order pentandria, digynia, a native of Great Britain, growing naturally in ditches near the sea. The time I prefer for sowing is the middle of March. Having prepared some seed pans, I fill them with sandy loam, giving plenty of drainage, and neither sow the seed too rank nor cover it too thick, as it is a long time coming up. As soon as the plants are ready for pricking out, I prepare some boxes, filling them with good rotten dung, with a little soil mixed, and putting



about an inch and a half of the sandy loam at the top, to start the young roots, as the plan I adopt is growing chiefly in manure. Transplant not too near, as they require plenty of air. I sow in the vinery, where the heat ranges from fifty-eight degrees by night to seventy degrees by day. After the plants have struck root again, I remove them into a cold peach house, and water liberally. If properly managed, the plants will be ready to set out the latter part of May. When ready, I prepare the trenches in the following manner:—I excavate the earth one foot and a half wide, likewise the same depth, laying a foot deep of dung, and about two inches and a half of sandy loam, doing away with the old and most wretched plan of sinking a foot below the surface of the ground. By the above process, the plants are exposed to both sun and air, which is of great consequence. I cut the plants out, injuring the roots as little as possible, and plant them nine inches apart in the row. Give plenty of water; in dry weather they should be kept pretty moist. Earth as seldom as possible, say about three times; taking care to hold the plants fast, to prevent the soil getting into the hearts, which would cause them to rot.

Having by the above method grown the heads on an average to the weight of seven, eight, and nine pounds, I can confidently recommend it to any persons who are desirous of trying, doubting not but it will answer their most sanguine expectations.

T. W.

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WOOD ASHES.—Ground infested with maggots, and on which carrots could not, in consequence, be grown, was cleared, and a fine crop of carrots obtained, by using a top-dressing of wood ashes. Guano was applied to a portion of the same ground, infested with the maggot, when the carrots were a little advanced, and failed to produce any benefit. This was at Balcarras Garden.—*Annals of Hort.*

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.—◆—  
FRUITS.

THE public have latterly been so sadly disappointed in respect to strawberries, that they will naturally require some concurrent testimony with that of the raiser, as to the good qualities of a new sort. We see there is a variety to be sold, called BRITISH ROYAL STRAWBERRY, with a high character. We shall be glad to hear, from those who have seen it, whether its qualities are as represented, when we will give it all the publicity its merits deserve.

MYATT'S NEW FERTILIZED HAUTOIS STRAWBERRY. —Some fruit of this very fine new variety was forwarded on the 23rd of June, by Messrs. Myatt, to Buckingham Palace, for which those gentlemen received a very flattering note of thanks, accompanied with a silver medal, in token of the approval of Prince Albert. The note stated that "*none finer or of a better flavour have appeared at her Majesty's table.*"

—◆—  
HARDY SHRUBS.

WE are always glad to record in our pages any new hardy flowering evergreen shrubs, as they combine attractions both for the winter and summer months. The RHODODENDRON NILAGERIKUM (*Neilgherry Rhododendron*) is one of this class. It has been introduced by Messrs. Lucombe and Pince, of Exeter. It is figured in the *Magazine of Botany*. The heads of flowers are large, each bloom or flower composing them being individually more than two inches across.

Its colour is beautifully shaded pink, the interior of the flowers being white, spotted with red. It is a valuable acquisition.

On July the 12th, were shown, at the Chiswick Gardens, the following six new hardy shrubs, which will be worth inquiring for, by those who are fond of these things :—

*Escallonia macrantha*, from Patagonia, of good habit and fine dark foliage.

*Berberis macrophylla*, from Japan.

*Fagus antarctica* (The Antarctic Beech).

*Laurus aromatica*.

*Berberis Jamesonii*, from Peru.

*Pæppigia Cliftonii*.

## GREENHOUSE PLANTS.

### CINERARIA.

*Satellite*.—A most showy variety of a beautiful family. The colour is a rich crimson, and it is highly deserving of cultivation.

### PELARGONIUMS, OR GERANIUMS.

*Gaines's Meleager*.—This is a very fine variety, rich in colour and exquisite in form. It is a beautiful crimson, the upper petals having a most intense and well defined blotch of deep marone.

*Shylock* (Gains).—This is a beautiful fancy variety, and gained a certificate at the Horticultural Society's exhibition. The top petals are bright mulberry, the lower ones light purple, with a patch of dark on each.

*Helax* (Beck).—A seedling of the present year. The top petals are dark marone, with a narrow margin of light rose; the centre of the flower is white, with painted bottom petals. A certificate was awarded to this pretty variety, at the exhibition of the Royal Botanic Society.

## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

### PICOTEES.

*Sandiland's Eliza*.—Light purple edge; a first-rate variety. It has a most beautiful well-formed petal, lacing well defined, and will stand very high in the estimation of florists.

First-class certificates have been awarded for the following :—

*Juno* (Rev. A. Matthews).—The white is very pure, laced with a pleasing bright violet purple ; the flower is quite full enough for north country growers, but the petals are smooth on the edge. It belongs to the light-edged class.

*Miss Turner* (Barringer).—A very beautiful heavy-edged red. The white being good and the colour bright, renders this variety peculiarly attractive.

### CARNATIONS.

*Scarlet Defiance* (Haines).—A flake, of good properties, the white being good and the colour high ; the petals are smooth and well ribboned through.

*Jenny Lind* (Merryweather).—A scarlet flake, of immense size, colour very bright ; the white ground might be better, though the flowers exhibited at Derby were old.

*Brilliant* (Elliott).—A seedling, one of the best scarlet flakes we have seen this season, white very good, colour well distributed, likely to be a great favourite.

### PINKS.

We have received the following description of new varieties from a first-rate Lancashire grower :—

*Black-eyed Susan*.—This was supposed to be a plain, or black and white pink, and was sold out as such ; but, from a higher state of cultivation, it has this season exhibited itself in its true character, which is that of a very fine purple-laced variety. It has a good pod, and contains about twenty petals, which are perfectly rose-leaved, or smooth on the edges. The centre, as well as the lace, are of the darkest purple possible, nearly black ; and the white is very pure. The flower may truly be said to be a decided beat even on the far famed Mango.

*Broom Girl*.—A splendid plain pink ; it contains about sixteen petals ; the pod is long, and not inclined to burst, and the petals are equally smooth with the above, but it is not quite so dark in the centre.

*Beauty of Home*.—Another fine rose-petalled black and white, of first-rate excellence.

*Beauty of Clayton*.—Sold out by Mr. Whalley. Also a plain pink, very smooth on the edge, excellent pod, and the centre black, on a ground of great purity. It is a decided improvement on *Beauty of Blackburn*, from which esteemed variety it was originated.

## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## ROOT GRAFTING.

THIS operation is performed in two ways, either by grafting on the already established roots of young plants, or on pieces taken from the roots of old ones; but much depends upon circumstances, and the kinds of plants to be operated upon, as to which is the most suitable plan. The former is the easiest method for obtaining young plants, and is best suited for conifers and such like plants, in which the stem or trunk is an object.

In grafting upon already established roots of a young plant, first clear the soil away from the collar or neck of the plant intended for the stock, and cut the head off, as much below the surface as possible; but at the same time observing that a sufficient length of the neck or collar must be left to receive the graft. The graft should be cut wedge shape, and inserted in the slit or crown-graft method, tied lightly with a soft worsted thread, and afterwards covered with the soil, leaving only a portion of the graft exposed to the light and air. It will greatly increase the chances of success, if the worked plants can be kept close, and in a rather moist atmosphere, for a few days, until they commence growing; but much depends upon the operation being performed at a proper time and season, which, in most cases, is just before a new growth commences.

In grafting on pieces of roots taken from an older plant, such pieces should be selected as are of sufficient size to receive the scion, and also such as have some small fibres attached to them. In grafting, the roots may either be at once worked, and afterwards potted, or potted a short time previous to being worked, and afterwards worked like those of the

preceding ones, and then treated according to the nature of the plants to which they belong, whether stove, greenhouse, or hardy ; but even plants belonging to the latter class, are better for a gentle moist heat, for a few days, to start them.

In this way, many kinds of plants may be increased, such as clematis, berberis, roses, combretums, moutan pæonies, &c. where the roots of the more common kinds are easily procured, and where suitable accommodation can be afforded ; but under ordinary circumstances, the chances are very great against the success of the system, and it should only be resorted to by the amateur in the case of very rare and curious plants.

*Gardener's Chronicle.*

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### TO FERTILIZE, CROSS-BREED, OR HYBRIDIZE ROSES.

ROSES are now very extensively grown. The following hints, by Mr. Rivers, in his *Rose Amateur's Guide*, will, we are sure, be read with much interest ; because any one of our readers, who is fond of raising seedlings, may attempt something, and if successful in originating a superior variety, will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has added to the general stock of enjoyment, independent of obtaining a good price for his seedling, from some nurseryman, a price, perhaps, that would give one of his children a start in the world, or be the means of adding very much to his own comforts. *Ten, twenty, fifty, nay, even a hundred pounds*, is not an uncommon price for the stock of a really good flower.

This is a hint for the artizans of Derby, Nottingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Leicester, Manchester, and other large manufacturing towns, as well as the cultivators of small gardens generally ; and we would advise them to get thoroughly acquainted with the principles of cross-breeding, or hybridizing. They

know not what a source of true enjoyment, aye, and profit into the bargain, is in store for them, if these principles are fully carried out. We will endeavour to do our share, in describing the various operations, though we had much rather some of our talented readers would do this, for the class of society to whom our little work is more particularly devoted. It would indeed evidence a kind and philanthropic spirit, to increase their knowledge on this interesting subject, and thus open up to them a fresh source of profit, emolument, and pleasure.

Mr. Rivers, speaking of the operation of cross-breeding roses, recommends that the one to be fertilized should be carefully opened the day previously, and the male organs or anthers cut away with a pair of sharp-pointed scissors. He further observes, it requires some watchfulness to do this at the proper time. If too soon, the petals will be injured in forcing them open; and in hot weather, in July, if delayed only an hour or two, the anthers will be found to have shed their pollen. To ascertain precisely when the pollen is in a fit state for transmission, a few of the anthers should be gently pressed with the finger and thumb; if the yellow dust adheres to them, the operation may be performed. It requires close examination and some practice, to know when the flower to be operated on is in a fit state to receive the pollen; as a general rule, the flowers ought to be in the same state of expansion, or, in other words, about the same age. It is only in cases where it is wished for the qualities of a particular rose to predominate, that the removal of the anthers of the rose to be fertilized is necessary. Thus, if a yellow climbing rose is desired, by the union of the yellow briar with the Ayrshire, every anther should be removed from the latter, so that it is fertilized wholly with the pollen of the former.

In some cases, where it is desirable to have the qualities of both parents in an equal degree, the removal of the anthers must not take place. Thus I

have found, by removing them from the Luxembourg Moss, and fertilizing that rose with a variety of *Rosa Gallica*, that the features of the moss rose are totally lost in its offspring (the seedlings), and they become nearly pure varieties of the former; but if the anthers of the moss rose are left untouched, and it is fertilized with *Rosa Gallica*, interesting hybrids are the result, more or less mossy.

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### ROOT-PRUNING WALL TREES.

HAVING seen in your valuable periodical some hints as to root-pruning trees, and as we ought to help you in diffusing that knowledge which you appear so anxious so impart, I send you an account of an experiment that I tried last autumn. I have a west wall, against which are planted the following varieties of pears:—Swan Egg, Brown Beurré, Gansel's Bergamot, Jargonelle, and Chaumontel. The trees have for years been extremely luxuriant, making fore-right shoots, or breast wood, as it is termed, two and three feet in length, but the crop of fruit has been altogether insignificant. Adopting your hint, I was determined to "*stop the supplies.*" Last November, I opened a trench, about two feet wide, at the distance of four feet from the stem of each tree, to the depth of at least a yard, and consequently brought up some very bad subsoil, which was all wheeled away. I then, with a sharp knife, cut all the roots which had been severed with the spade, so as to remove all bruised parts, &c. After this, I had the trenches filled up with soil that had been obtained from a neighbouring plantation, composed of decayed leaves, sticks, and loam. This summer the trees have made very little breast wood; and in June (about the beginning of the month), I pinched off all the shoots that had this tendency, and I assure you, my trees now look as though they meant to *behave themselves*. True, I have not much fruit this season; but from the spurs,



and the general appearance of the trees, I feel confident there will be abundance of blossom next spring. Now, Mr. Editor, what is your opinion? Have I done right? and may I expect to see my trouble rewarded?

*Birmingham.*

J. P.

[We would recommend others, similarly situated, to adopt the plan pursued by J. P. He has done perfectly right; and the operation is so simple, and the trouble, comparatively speaking, so little, that we wonder the plan is not more generally adopted.]

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### BURNT SOIL, OR CLAY, AS A MANURE FOR GARDENS.

As many gardens are awkwardly situated, especially round Nottingham, for carting manure to them, and as I have practised the following plan, by which means I have been enabled to fertilize the soil of my garden in a very great degree, as my crops, this season, will most abundantly testify, and as many of your readers may have better convenience than myself for carrying the system out, I trust the following hint will not be lost. Having taken a small garden, in the autumn of 1847, in which were many old gooseberry trees, which apparently had not been pruned for years, and apple trees, which overshadowed the ground, I determined to make a general clearance, and begin afresh; in fact, to have the place, as it were, of my own creation. The consequence was, the apple trees were all grubbed up, as well as the gooseberries, old straggling shrubs, &c. Of course, the next point was to get rid of them by burning; and having had a large quantity of clay dug out, where I had made a cistern, to hold the water which runs from the roof of my summer house, I determined to burn this clay with the wood and rubbish which had previously been collected together. My first object was to get a good foundation for this purpose.

I sawed the trees (some of which were as thick as posts) into lengths of four feet, and placed them on the ground, in a square, and continued to build them up, filling the inside with gooseberry tops and the more inflammable portion of the spray, cuttings of the hedge, &c. Round this I built up the clay, leaving a hole on the west side, for draught. On firing it, I put small portions of the clay on the top, leaving a space to act as a chimney, till the wood was consumed, and a large burning mass was obtained. On this I continued to heap my clay, night and morning, till the whole had gone through a complete burning. I also placed on the top some of the surface soil of the garden. My next operation was to have the whole surface of the garden trenched two feet deep, and thrown up into ridges, in which state it lay till February; at which time, choosing dry weather, I laid the burnt soil between the ridges, and then levelled them down on it, supposing that this would be nearer the roots of my plants, and more calculated to benefit them (as they keep near the surface, in search of nutriment), than if it had been dug in. I now laid out my garden in four large compartments, with the main walks crossing at the centre. At each angle I have planted a pyramidal pear tree, allowing each tree four square feet, and by root-pruning and shortening, I do not intend any of them to exceed that space, or to get more than ten feet high. My gooseberry and currant trees are planted at the sides of the walks, and I intend the currant trees to be trained as pyramids. The whole of them have thriven most luxuriantly; and my crops of onions, carrots, turnips, &c. which were all drilled, and the soil kept well stirred between the rows, are the best I ever had, though they have not received a particle of manure of any description, except the dressing of burnt soil, before alluded to; and I am quite sure, from this experiment, that its beneficial effect on worn out soils is not appreciated as it ought to be.

H. S. M.

## NEW ROSES.

MR. RIVERS says, in the *Florist*, that upwards of one hundred new varieties of hybrid perpetual roses have been sold out, or, as the French term it, "placed in commerce," since the summer of 1846; and our readers will be surprised to find that from this quantity not more than ten or twelve could be selected as *really good and distinct*. It is very little use giving a good sum for a new rose, which, in the blooming season, is so little different from others in the collection as to be scarcely distinguishable. In some other cases, when roses are imported from abroad, they will not, except in very favourable seasons, expand their flowers. This applies more particularly to the Bourbons and hybrid perpetuals; we would therefore advise every lover of the rose (and who is not a lover of the rose?) to purchase only those sorts which have been proved in this country; and that too from some respectable dealer; which will save him a vast deal of trouble, disappointment, and expense.

We give the names of the varieties which are favourably spoken of. They are hybrid perpetuals, blooming during most of the summer and autumn, and are generally highly fragrant.

*Géant des Batailles* was particularly fine, its extremely splendid colour being increased by the heat and warmth of May. It must have been good, for Mr. R. records the following opinion, which, taking into consideration the thousands of new roses that have passed the ordeal of his criticism, is a strong recommendation. He says, "*This rose was the most brilliant, the most beautiful I ever beheld.*"

*Soleil d'Austerlitz* is another of these brilliant crimson roses, with neatly cupped flowers, quite worthy the notice of the amateur.

*Commandant Fournier*.—Very brilliant, bright carmine; it is stated to be a very nice variety.

*Comte Montalivet*.—Apparently a seedling from William Jesse; it is a fine and very large rose, much deeper in colour than its parent, with flowers finely cupped not quite full, owing to which it blooms in great perfection in the autumn.

*Reine des Fleurs*.—A new and very beautifully shaped rose, varying in colour from pale to deep rose. It is most elegantly cupped, and decidedly a good variety, but without novelty in colour.

*Madame Verdier*.—Also remarkable for the extreme perfection of shape in its finely cupped flowers, which are of a pale blush. A very dwarf variety.

We may just remark here, that though the two preceding roses are not very new in colour, yet they appear of excellent shape, and are therefore a decided acquisition to all exhibitors, who well know how important it is to have the best formed flowers possible.

*Bouton de Flore*.—Pale rose colour; remarkable for blooming in very large clusters, and forming a fine bush.

*L'Inflexible*.—A new rose of great beauty, not for novelty in colour, as it is merely of a pinkish rose, but for its neatness and general excellence; it is indeed, in shape, *quite perfect*.

The following roses, Henry IV. Duke of Devonshire, Comte Derby, Nadine Fay, Montaigne, Ariel, Admiral d'Estaing, Lindley, Mathilde Jourdeuil, Olivier de Serres, Titus Livius, Reine de Matin, Gulistan, and a host of others, from that fertile source of new roses, France, which have been sent out at very high prices, are dismissed with the brief remark, that though pretty enough, *yet novelty in shape or colour is not to be found amongst them*. The descriptions, written by those who raised them, in the usual elastic French manner, were so tempting, and then the price, generally twenty-five francs each (twenty shillings and tenpence), made one suppose that they *must* be good.

Mr. R. also states, that about three years ago he paid twelve pounds for six new hybrid perpetual roses, from an amateur—"a French gentleman"—not one of which proved worth a farthing.

This is often the case, and our readers must bear in mind, that the *home cultivator* is their safeguard against foreign imposition. He is generally to be found; but such gents. as the Frenchman who came to Nottingham last season, and bled our amateurs so freely, are not to be found when wanted.

Many of our readers cultivate the rose very extensively, and whether to the amateur, who grows his hundred varieties—the artizan, who may have his half-dozen—or to the cottager, who rejoices in her old-fashioned china rose, which trellises round her window, the following hints for the destruction of vermin, insects, &c. which often mar their beauty, will, we make no doubt, prove highly acceptable. Mr. Wm. Corvell gives the recipe, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*. To twelve gallons of cold water add one bushel of soot, and half a peck of unslaked lime : stir and mix. [*This quantity may be reduced one-half, for six gallons ; or to one-fourth, for three ; according to the number of trees to be operated upon.*] The soot will rise to the surface, and may then be skimmed off, and may be used for the same purpose several times. Syringe the roses from a hand syringe, or garden engine (*or the old lady may dip her hand-brush in the mixture, and sprinkle her tree with it.*) There is another insect, the writer adds, which sets this mixture at defiance, and this is a small white grub, with brown scaly head. It destroys the fleshy part of the leaves, leaving them skeletons, and seriously injuring the health of the plants. By adding one pound of soft soap to twelve gallons of lime and soot water, this grub is quickly destroyed. The soft soap should be dissolved in warm water, before it is added to the other ingredients.

We have had in almost every horticultural publication, a great deal said as to the most proper way to *dwarf trees* ; various plans have been propounded, to attain a *maximum of fruit on a minimum of space*, and for small gardens they are doubtless eminently adapted. We have been much amused by the account of some dwarf apple trees, natives of Syria, described in the journal of the London Horticultural Society. From the account Mr. Fortune has given us of the predilection of the Chinese for trees of minute growth, we should have no doubt that a consignment of

*"dwarf apples of Armenia"* would realize their weight in gold. John Barker, Esq. of Suædia, states, in a letter to the vice-secretary, that he was about to forward to his son-in-law, Mr. Warmington, five hundred specimens of the above dwarf apple. He observes of them, "They are all much past the age of puberty (their full growth, we suppose), though only eighteen inches high. I received them two years ago, from Armenia, and they do not appear to have grown at all. They increase slowly in thickness. I have often seen them planted in pots and cases, on the terraces, in the city of Aleppo, of forty and fifty years growth, and never exceeding two feet in height, nor in the thickness of their stems, that of your forefinger, without their having ever been pruned!! To test the fact, that their diminutiveness was not caused by their always being kept in pots and boxes, I planted out three of full fifteen years' growth, and after keeping them eighteen years in the open ground, found they had made no perceptible progress." Mr. Baker does not say how large the fruit of these Lilliputian trees is, or whether it is of superior flavour. We look forward to further communications with considerable interest.

**AN EXTRAORDINARY OAK.**—The most magnificent oak ever known to grow in England, was probably that dug out of Hatfield bog; it was one hundred and twenty feet in length, twelve in diameter at the base, ten in the middle, and six at the smaller end, where broken off; so that the butt, for sixty feet, squared seven feet of timber, and four its entire length. Twenty pounds were offered for this tree. This extraordinary production should have been preserved in some museum, as unequalled in ancient, unapproachable in modern days; exceeding in magnitude that famous larch brought to Rome in the reign of Tiberius, and reserved as a curiosity for many years, which was one hundred and twenty feet long, and two feet in diameter its whole length.

**PROPERTIES OF THE ANTIRRHINUM.**—We are not aware that any determinate properties have been propounded, by which to determine the relative merits of seedling varieties. In the absence of such a definition, we offer the following:—The habit to be densely branching; the flowers in a short close spike, equal on all sides, and standing out from among the foliage. The individual flowers should be large; if self-coloured, bright and clear; if variegated, the markings must be also clear and distinct, and contrast well with the ground colour. The segments, or lobes of the upper and lower lips should be entire, and broad in proportion to their length—that is, as broad as long, and the less reflexed the better. It is a character of the plant to have the middle one of the three lobes of the lower lip smaller than the others.—*Horticultural Magazine*.

**ELLETON'S MAMMOTH BROCCOLI.**—This fine variety was exhibited at the Battle (Sussex) Horticultural Society, on the 4th of May last, by Mr. R. White. One head weighed nine pounds and a quarter.

## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



**FLORISTS' JOURNAL.**—The embellishment consists of a pretty group of three epacrises, *Miniata*, *Hyalocinthiflora*, and *Atleeana*. Those of our readers who have the opportunity of growing hard-wooded greenhouse plants, should get these interesting varieties. The papers consist of an article on the cultivation of the above plants. On the Hollyhock. The writer here says, "The cultivation of hollyhocks is one of the simplest operations in horticulture. The seed should be sown in April or May, on tolerably rich light earth, and through the summer, they only require to be kept clear of weeds, till, in August, they will be large enough to transplant into nursery

rows. A distance of eighteen inches square should be kept between the plants, and in these rows they remain to be proved. Early in the following spring, it will benefit the plants to fork in a slight coating of dung, and by keeping the ground clear of weeds, the bloom stems will have every opportunity of rising with strength; and when about three feet high, they should be fastened to stout stakes. These supports need never be more than four feet long, as it may be remarked, the stems are seldom, if ever, injured, but by being broken off at the root; and if the lower part is held secure, no danger need be apprehended to the upper portion." The remaining articles are, On British Orchidæ, an interesting paper. Descriptive List of New Plants. Fancy Geraniums, &c.

FLORICULTURAL CABINET.—As usual, a very good number. The embellishments are, *Gloxina Tenchlerii* and *Chirita Moonii*, and two fancy pelargoniums, *Defiance* and *Hero of Surrey*, which, if not too much flattered, will prove very valuable acquisitions to this favourite class of flowers; they are apparently of excellent shape, and beautiful and novel in colour. There is a good article on *Bouvardia tryphilla*, a pretty plant for summer bedding, with heads of flowers somewhat like the Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle. The system of increasing it by cuttings of the roots is not new; we saw it described in the *Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London*, many years ago. However, as the same method of propagation may be applied to many other plants, we will here extract it, for the use of those of our readers who possess small greenhouses, and who are anxious to grow a few things for the adornment of their flower borders during summer. The writer states that he propagates the *Bouvardia* by cuttings of the roots. He fills some large pots with good fresh mellow loam, well blended with either rotten dung or vegetable mould. He plants the roots all over the surface of the pot, beginning with a circle round the



outside, opening the soil and planting them with the finger, only leaving a very small portion of each root above the soil. He then waters and places them in heat of from sixty to seventy degrees. As soon as the shoots get between four and five inches high, he pots them off singly, in small pots. After they are established and have made some little progress, he plants them in a bed, four feet wide, in rows, eight inches asunder and four inches from plant to plant. He also adds, that there ought to be a bed of this beautiful flower in every flower garden or parterre; in which opinion we cordially concur. There are other articles, On growing Pelargoniums, by Mr. Cock, of Chiswick, the substance of which we have previously given. Destroying Ants. On the Chinese Primrose. On Water Plants. The Cultivation of Cactuses, &c.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN —The figures are, *Gladiolus Gandavensis* (The Ghent Corn-flag), one of the most beautiful of its tribe. We bloomed it soon after it was sold out, and were highly gratified with it. The price, at that time, was high; it may now be got very cheap. *Jasione montana* (Mountain Sheep's Scabious), an annual plant of small pretensions; and as we cannot recommend it for the flower garden, we pass on to the figures of two small hardy trees. One is *Prunus spinosa flore pleno* (The Double Sloe), with very pretty double white flowers, blooming in early spring. The other, flowering at a still earlier period, is the *Cornus mascula* (Cornelian Cherry). The flowers, which are yellow, are put forth before the foliage; from which circumstance, joined to their extreme precocity, the tree is very interesting. The fruit illustration is, the *Bellegarde peach*, which is described as most delicious. It will, perhaps, be interesting to some of our readers, and at the same time guide them in their purchases, to state that this variety is also known as the *Galande*, *Early Galande*, *French Royal George*, and *Violet Hative*.

**HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE.**—A good number in many respects, but we are sorry to see anything like ill feeling sullying the pages of a publication which ought to be carried forward with kindness and in a good spirit. No work will ever succeed, which indulges in personalities; it may do for a while, but readers soon get disgusted and tired. With every wish to render the writer all the credit which is his due, still we think that it is just possible that there are other florists in England who are equally as good judges as he may be. If he alone is the light of the floricultural world, alas for us, when his sun is set! We can bear willing testimony to the general excellence of the *Horticultural Magazine*, and in noticing this as well as other floricultural works, we are always more anxious to praise than to blame.

**THE FLORIST** is illustrated with beautiful figures of *Topping's Brilliant* and *Elegans* geraniums. The former is a vividly splendid flower, and will be much sought after. The other illustration is *Hanard's Magnificent* tulip, a very fine flamed rose. The beam breaks through at the top of the petals, marking a good deal in the style of many of the Chellastons; the cup is pure, and nearly half a globe; it will make a fine addition to this class of flowers. It is supposed to have been raised sixteen years ago, from the seed of Rose Camuse. The contents are, Descriptive Visit to Sawbridgeworth. Remarks on the Moss Rose Laneii. Review of Mr. Paul's work, *The Rose Garden*. Reports of shows. Remarks on the Duties and Difficulties of a Pansy Censor. 'This last article contains many observations to the point; for instance, with regard to stands, it is observed that "the different shape, painting, and size of the stands will be very apt grossly to deceive the eye. Pansies will not only look one point out of four better upon one colour than they will upon another, but they will also look larger, though perhaps equal in size." The writer argues very properly that some system must be adopted

to come at just conclusions—giving a certain number of points for certain properties, thus, one point for each bloom that is good in character, &c.; one point for each flower that has a good eye; half a point when the eyes are poor, or ill defined, in the side petals; four points for size; two points for good arrangement. We agree with I. H. G. in believing that with some such instructions as these, the censors would have little or no difficulty in judging fairly or fittingly; and we particularly urge on all committees the following hint:—That censors must have more time, and enforce their own rules, and clear the tents earlier. We can testify to the uncomfortable position of censors, when a flood of visitors are let in on them before they have half made their award; and we are quite sure that no blame ought to be attached, if, in the crowd, a wrong conclusion is arrived at, as in the Botanic Garden, on the 10th of May.

The other magazines have not come to hand, or we would willingly say somewhat in their favour.

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### Part III.

#### QUERIES.

◆

I have a fine plant of double oleander, and am anxious to propagate it; will you be kind enough to tell me how to do so? Perhaps you would rather sell the plants, but I assure you my propagation will never hurt your trade.

A SINCERE ADMIRER OF THE MIDLAND FLORIST.

*Dewsbury.*

[We are quite sure that we shall lose nothing by telling our friend how to get young plants from his oleander. We have just potted some cuttings of the Nerium Tangle, a striped variety, which had been struck in bottles of water. Cuttings of the *half ripened* young wood are best for this purpose; or they may be easily struck in a cucumber frame, in moist sand.]

Having a good three-light frame, six feet and a half by three feet and a half, furnished with flues, which I do not make use of, in which I fancy I might grow some melons, and being totally unacquainted with their culture, an early article on them would oblige,

A SUBSCRIBER FROM THE FIRST.

At your recommendation, I have grown the Black Naples Currant, and am highly pleased with it, it being of much better flavour, and a superior cropper to any other sort that I know. Did it come originally from Naples, or why is it so designated ?

I. S.

[All that we can tell our correspondent is, that it was introduced to the south from Messrs. Dickson's nursery, Edinburgh, twenty years ago. If this is seen by those gentlemen, we trust they will give us some information on the subject.]

You will perhaps think that the question I am about to put is out of your usual line of queries; but I have a large china jar, and am anxious to fill it so that I may have it in the strictest sense of the words, a *scent jar*. During the summer, I gathered rose leaves, lavender, sweetbriar, &c. and put them in, but find, on examination, that they are wholly rotten, and anything but what they ought to be. In what have I done wrong? An early answer will oblige,

SARAH I—s.

[Rose petals and buds form the chief ingredients of a scent jar, or, as the French have it, "*un pot pourri*." Of these take any quantity, according to the size of the vessel to be filled, say a peck, and add rosemary, sweetbriar, lavender, balm of Gilead, &c. with a quarter of an ounce of musk and three ounces of orris root. Place a layer of these in the jar, and sprinkle some salt over them; then another layer of leaves, &c. and another sprinkling of salt, till the jar is filled. Cover close. It will be advisable, to prevent any bad effects, to occasionally turn the ingredients out, and after stirring them up, return them again to the jar.]

I have been told that the Lancashire prize gooseberries are not so good flavoured as some others. Now as I prefer "*quality to quantity*," I shall be greatly obliged by the names of a few of the best small ones.

HORTULANUS.

[Whitesmith, Warrington, Rumbullion, Yellow Champagne, Pitmanston, Greengage, Raspberry.]

As now is a good time to plant strawberry runners, how far distant from each other ought they to be in the rows, &c.?

FRAGARIA.

[The rows ought to be two feet asunder, and twelve inches plant from plant.]

Will you give the names of six of the best geraniums (fancy varieties)? A reply in your next number will oblige, R. S.

Is the evergreen oak a suitable plant for a hedge? Would it bear clipping? How old may the plants be removed? Are there any more varieties that are interesting and handsome?

A YOUNG ARBORIST.

Which will be the best way to plant and lay out a small space, about twenty yards square, in front of a house, where it is desirable to have a small grass plat. An answer will oblige,  
*Southampton.*

W. JAMES.

Will any florist give the names and descriptions of six of the best polyanthuses, possessing deep yellow eyes and lacing, with body colours from the lightest to the darkest shade? Also six with pale yellow eyes, lacing, &c.

DERA.

A judge, in awarding prizes to calceolarias, at an exhibition, this season, stated that his mode of judging these flowers was, yellow being the colour of the parent plant, he took that as a standard; and if a yellow marble, of good form, was shown against another, however pretty, either in colour or form, which was better, he should give his judgment in favour of the yellow. Is this right?

[We should say that the gentleman is in error, or he has a strange predilection for "yellow." He should take form first,—colour is a matter of fancy. Our correspondent here shows the imperative necessity of having three censors or judges. Who would endeavour to raise new varieties, of different colours, if yellows were always to be favourites?]

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



**PURPLE LABURNUM.**—HENRY SMITH.—The variety is known in catalogues as the *Cytisus Adamii*, and was originated in France. It retains the characters of both the common laburnum and the Purple-flowering *Cytisus*, its reputed parents, and is certainly a most curious phenomenon.

**DELPHINEUMS.**—M.B.—We purpose giving a descriptive article in our next.

**STRAWBERRIES.**—A NOVICE.—Strawberries, on rich damp soil, will often make much foliage, and bear but little fruit. Strong loam seems to suit them best. Plant out some Keen's Seedlings now, in rows, eighteen inches to two feet apart, and twelve inches in the rows; and should the beds alluded to prove unfruitful next season, dig them in, and these may also take their place: there are none better for general purposes.

**GOOSEBERRY TREES.**—J. BATES.—We have seen many gooseberry trees similarly situated with yours. We should give them a good pruning; remove the soil round the stems, and renew it with good rich compost; and in the spring, just after rain, dust the bushes with soot.

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## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR SEPTEMBER.

THE potato disease having made such sad progress, every one possessing a garden should endeavour to have abundance of vegetables of other descriptions, to make up in some small degree the serious loss which families, and especially poor ones, will sustain by this calamity.

A good store of *cabbage plants* should be set out as soon as ready to handle; those parts of the garden where *beans* and *peas* have grown, instead of being left in an uncultivated condition all the winter, should immediately be manured, dug, and planted with them, for if not all wanted for the family, they will be useful either to sell or give to the pig, where one is kept.

*Winter greens*, such as *Brussels sprouts*, *savoys*, &c. should be kept clean, and as the stems lengthen, the soil should be drawn to them with a hoe; this will keep them upright, and materially encourage their growth.

*Onions.*—Pull these, and after allowing them to dry for a few days, bunch them, and hang them in a dry airy place, so that they may be thoroughly free from damp, previous to storing away. *Tripoli* and *Spanish onions* may still be sown, to stand the winter.

*Kidney Beans.*—We would advise some of our readers to try to cultivate the *harricot* or *French beans* more extensively; they are very productive, and it is quite evident that some substitute must be found for the *potato*: it is folly to plant the latter root so extensively, many people will be utterly ruined by its failure.

*Celery.*—Earth up as required. Seymour's Superb White is very fine this season, and appears to be one of the best sorts in cultivation.

*Herbs.*—Attend to their propagation; the majority will grow by slips, at this season of the year.

*In the Hardy Tree Department*—Planting *evergreens* may now be commenced; though, after so much wet during summer, September may be a very warm month, in which case removal had better be deferred till the latter end. *Cuttings of evergreens*

may be planted ; and *cuttings of gooseberries, &c.* put in. It is likewise a good period to plant *holly hedges*. We wonder this most excellent plant for a fence is not more extensively grown ; when properly attended to, it is of quick growth, seldom or never disfigured by insects, warm, and is in many respects better than a wall.

*In Florists' Flowers*—This will be a busy month :—potting and planting out *pink, carnation, and picotee pipings and layers* ; preparing *tulip beds*, arranging the roots for planting, &c. Information on all which subjects has been previously given in the pages of the *Midland Florist*.

*Perennial and biennial herbaceous plants* should be put out now. We would advise our readers not to forget the old favourite *hollyhock* ; there are many superb varieties.

Many *annuals* may now be sown, to stand the winter, *nemophilas, erysimums, &c.* These will flower early and well in the spring.

Many *bulbs*, such as *lilies* and *narcissuses*, which commence growth early in the autumn, had better be attended to, taking them up, dividing, replanting, &c.

*Dahlias* have made strong growth this season, and must be carefully attended to, as they will, during the next two months, make the chief display in the flower garden. Semi-double and misshapen blooms must be removed, the side shoots well fastened, and every care be taken to prevent their branches being wrenched off by the wind.

*In the Frame, or small Greenhouse*—*Mignonette* should be sown in pots, for winter ; *verbena cuttings* should be potted, so as to get established ; repot *chrysanthemums* ; and *geranium cuttings* may still be put in.

*Salvias, heliotropes, petunias, &c.* for next summer's decoration, should be propagated now.

## FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.



### THE WARRINGTON FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first meeting of this society, for the exhibition of tulips, &c. was held on Thursday, the 18th of May. The hot weather occasioned much trouble and disappointment to the tulip growers in the neighbourhood ; for although the exhibition took place a week earlier than the day originally fixed, it was found impossible to preserve the best part of the bloom. There were several fine seedlings produced, one a flamed byblœmen raised by Mr. Alderman Lowe, of Wigan, which is beautifully marked with a light violet colour ; and, though a little too long in the cup, is a desirable variety. Mr R. Dixon, of Strangeways, near Manchester, showed his seedling Bion, a richly feathered rosy byblœmen, in good style. Had not the petals been rather faded, it would have occupied a much higher position in its class. The gem of the exhibition, however, was his seedling Monument, which is richly feathered with bright rosy scarlet, on a white ground of exquisite purity. It is a valuable addition to a class remarka-

bly scanty in good varieties, and will be much sought after. Lord Howick is a seedling raised by Mr. Slater, Cheetham Hill, near Manchester. It is of good form, very bright and pure in the ground colour, and beautifully feathered, being a decided improvement on Crown Prince, or Sultana, which it most resembles. It ought to have had a much higher place in its class. There was also a very fine bizarre breeder, Sir Thomas Picton, raised by Mr. Alderman Hardy, of Warrington, and bloomed by him for the first time this season. In point of form, substance of petals, and richness of colour, as well as purity of base and stamens, it would be difficult to find its equal. The prizes awarded were as follows:—

**Best pan of six rectified tulips**—Mr. Lowe, of Wigan, for Royal Sovereign, Platoff, Andromeda, Unique, La Belle Narene, and Violet Wallers.

**Best feathered tulip**—Mr. Hardy, Royal Sovereign.

**Best flamed tulip**—Mr. Hardy, San Josef.

**Feathered Bizarres**—1. Mr. Dixon, Magnum Bonum; 2. Mr. Hardy, Emperor Charles; 3. Mr. Gerrard, Duke of Wellington; 4. Mr. Lowe, Firebrand; 5. Mr. Hardy, Lord Howick; 6. Mr. Dobbs, Trafalgar.

**Flamed Bizarres**—1. Mr. Lowe, Lord Stanley; 2. Mr. Lowe, Albion; 3. Mr. Hardy, Pilot; 4. Mr. Dixon, Polyphemus; 5. Mr. Hardy, Lustre; 6. Mr. Lowe, Caliph.

**Feathered Byblæmens**—1. Mr. Hardy, Bienfait; 2. Mr. Lowe, Mungo; 3. Mr. Hardy, Baguet; 4. Mr. Hardy, La Belle Narene; 5. Mr. Dixon, Bion; 6. Mr. Lowe, Buckley's Beauty.

**Flamed Byblæmens**—1. Mr. Lowe, Seedling; 2. Mr. Hardy, Princess Royal; 3. Mr. Hardy, Grotius; 4. Mr. Hardy, Premier Noble; 5. Mr. Lowe, Violet Wallers; 6. Mr. Hardy, Baguet.

**Feathered Roses**—1. Mr. Hardy, Heroine; 2. Mr. Dixon, Monument; 3. Mr. Dixon, Lady Crewe; 4. Mr. Ravenscroft, Dolittle; 5. Mr. Dixon, Reid's No. 39; 6. Mr. Dixon, Surpassant.

**Flamed Roses**—1. Mr. Lowe, Triomphe Royale; 2. Mr. Hardy, Lady Crewe; 3. Mr. Dixon, Aglala; 4. Mr. Hardy, Vesta; 5. Mr. Hardy, Unique; 6. Mr. Gerrard, Roi de Cerise.

**Bizarre Breeders**—1. Mr. Hardy, Sir Thomas Picton; 2. Mr. Hardy, Polyphemus.

**Byblæmen Breeders**—1. Mr. Hardy, Madonna; 2. Mr. Hardy, Britannia.

**Rose Breeders**—1. Mr. Hardy, Catherine; 2. Mr. Hardy, Kate Conner.

**Selfs**—**Best Yellow**—Mr. Hardy, Min d'Or.—**Best White**—Mr. Dobbs, White Flag.

#### PINK SHOW,

At the house of Mr. John Smithers, Woodman, Wood-street, Middleton, near Manchester, June 24th.

**1st pan**, Charles Stott, Mango, Sturge, and Lady Boldhaughton; **2d**, Saml. Rayner, Mango, Sturge, and Kay's Mary; **3d**, James Ashton, Greensides, Sturge, and Kay's Mary; **4th**, Wm. Taylor, Greensides, Sturge, and Snowball; **5th**, John Taylor, Greensides, Sturge, and Kay's Mary; **6th**, Joseph Clegg, Greensides, Little Wonder, and Kay's Mary.

**Purple-laced**—1. Seedling, Daniel Moors; 2. Duke, Wm. Taylor; 3. Mango, Charles Stott; 4. Cobden, Samuel Rayner.

**Red-laced**—1. Sturge, W. Taylor Middleton; 2. Little Wonder, T. Williamson, Oldham; 3. Doctor Hepworth, S. Rayner; 4. Sir William, John Morton.

**Black and White**—1. Lady Boldhaughton, Charles Stott; 2. Kay's Mary, Samuel Rayner; 3. Snowball, Charles Stott; 4. Beauty of Blackburn, Charles Stott.

#### PINK SHOW,

At Mr. Thomas Edward's, Lamb and Flag Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 1.

**Purple-laced**—Premier, Taylor's Mango, T. Williams; 1. Kay's Advance, W. Hand; 2. Jones's Huntsman, R. Moorley; 3. Taylor's Mango, E. Barker; 4. Bradshaw's Greensides, H. Eaton.

**Red-laced**—Premier, Lee's Joseph Sturge, E. Barker; 1. Lee's Joseph Sturge, T. Williams; 2. Unknown, H. Eaton; 3. Lighbody's Louis Tass, H. Eaton; 4. Rigby's Miss Lucy, R. Moorley.

**Black and White**—Premier, Seedling, Fairy Queen, E. Barker; 1. Fairbrother's Beauty of Blackburn, T. Williams; 2. Seedling, E. Barker; 3. Gregson's Lady Boldhaughton, R. Moorley; 4. Smith's White Rose, W. Griffiths.

**Judges**—Mr. Edward Harding, Stoke-road; and Mr. Thos. Boot, Smallthorn.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

DESCRIPTION OF TULIPS GROWN IN THE SOUTH,  
CALCULATED FOR THE NORTHERN FANCY.

BY THE REV. S. CRESSWELL, RADFORD, NOTTS.

ON the 10th of May, I paid a visit to Mr. Groom's splendid bed of tulips, at Clapham Rise, near London; and on the following day, I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Slater's, at Cheetham Hill, near Manchester. With your kind permission, I will first describe a few particulars respecting Mr. Groom's bed. It is, I believe, generally acknowledged that the above celebrated florist possesses the most splendid and the largest collection of tulips of any grower in the kingdom. In order to give your readers some idea of this gigantic bed, I have only to inform them, that it measures about fifty yards in length, and is four feet three inches in breadth, and contains the immense number of two thousand flowering bulbs. It stood proudly in the centre of a vast marquee, covered over at the top with linen cloth, and clothed at the sides and ends with coarse canvass. Both top and side cloths can be rolled up, so that sun or shade to any part of the bed can be commanded. By this method also the air is freely admitted, and the inside of the marquee, or awning, is cool and refreshing, and most beneficial to the flowers. Mr. Groom, who is a gentlemanly and polite florist, introduced me without ceremony within the veil, and I, in a moment, was ushered into the company of kings, queens, dukes, lords, ladies, and commoners. The sight was most dazzling and magnificent: the sun was shining, and each lovely flower was beautifully expanded. I stood for a few moments at the extreme end of the bed,

and was looking down upon these short-lived beauties, in silent reverie, when my friend, Mr. Groom, called me to see his pet tulip,

*Victoria Regina*.—It is a chaste flower, and worthy of its name. Its form is graceful, elegant, and perfect; the cup pure and without stain, the ground colour of snowy whiteness, the feathering and flame dark rosy purple. It is a second row flower, and the price £5 5s.

This flower is a favourite with the southern growers. I have seen byblœmens more correctly marked than this beautiful variety was this year; but Mr. G. informed me that the season had been very unfavourable indeed, and that his flowers had come very imperfect in their markings. This observation I found too true. I shall now briefly describe a small number of the choicest and best flowers that I saw in condition. First and foremost among the feathered bizarres, stands

*Lord Sandon*.—This splendid tulip will suit the taste of the northern growers. It is, without controversy, a magnificent seedling, and will be a match for any flower in its class. The ground colour is deep rich orange, pure base, form excellent, and deeply feathered with black; petals broad, thick, and fleshy. A third row flower. Price, £5 5s.

*Marshal Soult*.—This splendid seedling was raised by Mr. Groom, and is a pet of the south, and may justly be classed among the purest bizarres ever grown. It is a splendid bold flower, stands erect, shape of Polyphemus, and of large size, with strong broad petals. The inside is a model of purity. It is an improvement upon Strong's King; but, like that variety, it does not always mark correctly. A second row flower. Price, £1 11s. 6d.

*William IV*.—A fine flamed bizarre; excellent shape, and beautifully feathered; colour rich and good. A fourth row flower. Price, £2 2s.

*Prince of Wales* is a gem, raised by Mr. Groom. The colour of this flamed bizarre is extremely rich, form good, base clean, and feathering perfect. The only drawback I noticed was the size of the flower. Mr. Groom informed me (if I recollect correctly), that it was an offset bloom. It is a second row flower. Price, £7 7.

*Groom's Duke of Sutherland*.—This noble variety, I should imagine, was raised from Polyphemus, as it very much resembles that flower in colour. The flame and feathering of this new variety is good. It has every appearance of making a first-rate sort. A third row flower. Price, £5 5s.

*Pompe Funebre* was beautifully clothed in yellow and black. The colour of this celebrated flower is rich in the extreme, and the size good, but the cup is rather too long to take the lead in feathered bizarres. A second row flower. Price, £4 4s.

*Prince of the Netherlands*.—This splendid little flower I consider a master-piece, a perfect gem of its class. It is a flamed dark red bizarre. The feathering was the most beautiful I ever beheld; no pencilling of an artist could surpass it in softness of touch and fine delicate hair strokes. It possesses a short cup and pure base. A second row flower. Price, £1 1s.

*Everard*.—This is another fine flamed bizarre, of the same class as *Prince of the Netherlands*. The cup is short, Catafalque shape; the marking is heavy, and laid on well; the base is clean, and the sort promises well. A second row flower. Price, £10 10s.

*Addison*.—A splendid flamed bybloemen; shape good, and base clean. A second row flower. Price, £1 1s.

*Lady Peel*.—This beautiful new sort was the best of its class upon Mr. Groom's bed, and will prove a great acquisition to the flamed roses. It is of superior form and colour, the cup is quite pure, and marking correct. A fourth row flower. Price, £5 5s.

*Nourri Effendi*.—This splendid bizarre I have no hesitation in pronouncing one of the very best upon Mr. Groom's bed.

It is strongly argued by several florists, that the above-named magnificent flower and *Polyphemus* are one and the same variety. Now, without disputing any person's opinion, I will give mine candidly. No person could have a better opportunity of comparing and judging the above-named flowers, than myself, as there were about eight flowers of each of the two sorts, in full bloom and in excellent condition, before me. At first sight, I thought them decidedly synonymous; but upon a closer and more minute examination, I discovered a slight difference in the colours of the anthers, those of *Nourri Effendi* being lighter than those of *Polyphemus*; the colour also of *Nourri Effendi* was a shade darker than *Polyphemus*. If the above-named flowers are one and the same sort, I certainly consider *Nourri Effendi* to be the finest strain. In my humble opinion, it is one of the finest bizarres in cultivation. None can excel it in shape and size; the feathering and flame cannot be surpassed; and as to the objection that the base is a

lemon colour, that is entirely a matter of taste. London florists, I believe, generally prefer a lemon colour for the base of a bizarre, as it tends to show the darker colours to greater advantage.

I have now faintly, and perhaps imperfectly, described those flowers upon Mr. Groom's bed which I thought worthy of a high commendation, and I have done so without consulting him upon the subject, but I cannot take leave of Clapham Rise, unless I say a few words also upon his seedlings. Some florists will, perhaps, be astonished to hear, that Mr. Groom had growing, and in full bloom, when I paid him my visit, on the 10th of May, upwards of thirty thousand tulips. Of this vast number, more than ten thousand were seedlings; and about one-half this number were raised from Polyphemus. Three thousand appeared to be of the same family as the parent, only with this difference, the base of the seedlings being generally of a rich yellow.

I consider Mr. Groom very fortunate in raising such an immense number of first-rate seedlings, several of which break every year, equal, if not superior to Polyphemus.

I must now briefly notice Mr. Slater's bed, at Cheetham Hill, near Manchester. Mr. Slater has raised the following seedlings, from Polyphemus, impregnated by Sans Joe, *alias* Captain White, which he has named. As these seedlings have not yet broke into colour, I can only speak of their purity, shape, and size; and I must confess, in these particulars they are superexcellent, and equal to any I saw at Clapham Rise. Mr. S. has given them the following names:—Oberlin, Adonis, Marcus Manlius, Lord Clifford, Conrad, Harry Bluff. They are bizarres.

*Slater's My Mary* did not please me. The shape and colour are good; it is a flamed rose, and was marked indifferently. *Queen Philippa* is a splendid feathered rose, scarlet colour and short clean cup, and bids fair to be first-rate.

*Don Cossack* was the best flower upon Mr. Slater's bed; it is a dark flamed bizarre, feathers most beautifully, of excellent shape and pure yellow base. This flower was raised by Mr. Dark, and is not to be surpassed. Price, £3 3s.

## CULTIVATION AND PROPAGATION OF THE PINK.

BY MR. JAMES LIGHTBODY, FALKIRK.

THE following observations upon the culture of that beautiful and favourite flower, the pink, have been written more especially with the view of assisting the *inexperienced*, having eschewed all theory not consistent with actual practice. I shall feel myself highly rewarded, if my remarks should be in the slightest degree found useful in simplifying the necessary operations to be performed during its stages of growth

**PREPARATION OF THE BEDS.**—As early in August as may be convenient, the soil should be turned over several times, and thoroughly sweetened, giving it a good dressing of slackened lime, which corrects any acidity there may be, and also destroys worms and vermin. The proper compost is horse dung, at the least two years old; four inches of this may be applied, and dug well in. Not having any horse dung, I used, last season, pig dung, two years old, and found it to succeed well, as my plants were particularly strong, and blooms came beautifully laced. When the bed is ready, planting may be proceeded with, the first week in September. I allow eight inches between each plant, and the same distance between the rows. Before proceeding to plant, it will be found more convenient to have all the rows marked off, on the bed. This is easily done, by placing a garden line along the bed, and running a stick, with a groove in it, over the line, which makes a distinct impression upon the soil. The bed may be marked across by means of a carnation or any other stick which is long enough. The edging round my bed is marked every eight inches with a streak of white paint, and I find this of great use when planting.

Many parties prefer their plants grown three together, in a triangular form. By this method one stick and shade serves for all. Before putting in,

examine each plant, and remove all decayed leaves, and green fly, if thus infected. Place them as deep in the soil as they will admit of, without burying any of the leaves, and press the soil firmly about the neck. If the weather is excessively dry, they should have frequent waterings, with soft water, until they are firmly established. During winter, the less protection given the pink the better, as it is naturally a hardy plant. When the plants have been too much covered, or *tenderised*, the consequence is, that in early spring, the side shoots run to bloom. Whenever this is perceived, the blooming shoots should be *slipped* or *cut* off, at the lowest joint, so as to admit of fresh shoots being formed. These shoots, though small, I find to strike well. However, if there are high winds, accompanied by severe frost, during winter, some of the tender varieties, or those which are long and of spindling growth, are better for having flower pots placed over them. When rapid thaw succeeds frost, the plants are frequently nearly lifted out of the soil. Immediately this is perceived, place them in again firmly, and take care not to break the necks, as, during the continuance of this kind of weather, they are particularly brittle.

About the middle of March, when the soil is in a dry state, go carefully over the bed, stirring the surface, and removing weeds, decayed leaves, &c. Top dressing should now be done, choosing the time when there is an appearance of rain. Cow dung, or horse dung, well rotted, placed on the bed to the depth of an inch, will be found sufficient. If any plants have died during winter, this is the time to fill up vacancies, as rapid growth may now be expected. As the plants throw up the blooming stems, put in the flower stick, and reduce the stems, on the very strongest plants, if meant for exhibition, to three; some varieties will only carry two stems, others but one. Three pods may be left on those to which three stems are allowed. Some varieties grow strong, and yet perfect only small blooms. I may cite Creed's President, for

which two blooms are sufficient; the same for Hodge's Gem, Melona, Joseph Sturge, &c. Headley's Duke of Northumberland, Hodge's Tom Thumb, and Willmer's Elizabeth, are rather undersized, and should only have the master pod left on. As a general rule, to produce flowers with perfect lacing, pinks should be planted out in autumn: however, there are many varieties which come equally well, if planted in spring; among them are Looker's Achilles, Melona, Maclean's Criterion, &c. This latter variety seems susceptible of wet, and I would recommend its being wintered in a frame.

In spring, and during bloom, the plants are frequently covered with *green fly* and *cuckoo spit*. For the former of these pests, tobacco water, *slightly diluted*, or Scotch, or beggar's snuff, as it is termed, may be sprinkled over the plants: the effectual way with cuckoo spit, is to pick out the insect and crush it. During bloom, earwigs are very injurious: a thumb pot, with a little damp moss in it, placed on the blooming stick, is a good trap for them. As the pods swell, they must be carefully tied with soft bast mat, or India-rubber bands: these last are the best, although a little difficult in placing on. When the band is on, and the petals show colour, ease the calyx down to the shoulder, or rather to the band, taking care not to split the petals, or damage them. I use small cards, and as the petals expand, they should be dressed, in the same manner as the carnation, at the same time shading the bloom from the sun's rays. If seed is wanted, select those plants with the best form and petal, and cross with plants equally fine. If possible, all purple-laced varieties should be impregnated with those of the same colour; same with the red class, scarlet, &c. Purity of colour in lacing is indispensable. We are getting many flowers now with fine petals, but of mongrel colour in lacing. Some are lilac purple, red purple, &c. The aim should be to have richness and density of colour. When impregnation has been effected, a piece of

glass ought to be placed over the bloom ; and as the petals decay, extract them, and slit the calyx down to the bottom of the seed vessel, to prevent water from lodging, which would prove fatal to the formation of seed. The seed should be taken off whenever ripe, and placed in a bag, in the state it then is, until required for sowing, when it may be picked out. The proper time for sowing is about the middle of March. Sow in pans, with pure loam, and a small quantity of leaf mould, sifted, and river sand. If a frame cannot be had for starting the seed, a window, exposed to the south, will do well. Whenever the plants are an inch high, or indeed, at all fit to be lifted, plant them in a bed, to bloom, with soil and compost as near as possible to what I have before stated.

PIPING.—This operation should be performed in the second or third week of June. My pipings are generally struck in a northern border ; and previous to commencing operations, I have the soil frequently turned, using a little lime, and destroying all worms, as they prove fatal to the pipings, by throwing them out of the soil. I have a board, three inches deep, and one in thickness, made as level as possible, for the rim of the hand-glass top to rest on. When the soil is ready, this board is placed where the pipings are to be put in, filling up to the depth of half an inch with sifted leaf mould and sand. Thoroughly saturate it with water, and prepare the pipings by cutting across immediately below the second joint, and removing the *sheath* or *guard skin*. I find pipings will root quicker by allowing all the top leaves to remain on. When one variety of pipings is prepared in this manner, place them in a vessel full of water, for at least fifteen minutes, and then insert them in the bed, up to the first joint, or up to the leaves, but not deeper. When the bed is filled, again give water liberally, and leave them to dry. Before covering up, if any globules of water remain in the hearts of the plants, they must be carefully blown



out. The glass may now be put on, closing up the interstices with soil. Allow them to remain three weeks. If the weather is particularly hot, I water over the glass several times a day, but never shade them. When they are sufficiently struck, tilt the glass a little on one side; the following day, do the same with the other side; and on the third day, the glass may be wholly removed. After being hardened for a few days, the pipings may be transplanted into the stock bed, allowing them four inches from plant to plant, and five inches between the rows. If the blooming bed is in readiness, it is better to plant out at once from the piping bed.

I have been thus minute in detailing my mode of piping, as what can be more discouraging than seeing, it may be, hundreds of plants dwindling away, which never have had sufficient roots? and the cause, perhaps, attributed to atmospheric influence, when a little care was all that was wanting.

My general practice I have detailed in as simplified a manner as possible. Some errors I may, perhaps, have committed, which at present escape my attention; if such is the case, I trust to have all rectified in an early number, when at the same time, I shall make a few observations on perfection of form in the pink.



## THE HONEYSUCKLE.

BY THE EDITOR.

WHILE the world exists, mankind will have their favourites, and few plants have more admirers than the beautiful tribe, a few of which we purpose to describe. We do not intend to mystify our readers with much latin, for this simple reason, that the majority of them do not care about it; but in order to combine instruction with amusement, we shall add the scientific name of each, for the information of those who are desirous of becoming acquainted with

it, candidly telling all, however, that the acquirement of this knowledge will add nothing to the weight of the burthen which each, in his respective station, is doomed to bear. We said that few plants have more admirers; and why? They are graceful in their habit, hardy in their nature, handsome in their flowers, and the majority especially inviting by their fragrance. Whether we find it covering the rustic arbour, or forming pillars of flowers and foliage, by being trained to stakes—hanging its blooming wreaths in the most independent way possible, or pushing its sinuous branches amongst and around other shrubs—in all and every situation it is considered an acquisition, and decidedly beautiful.

We will begin with those that are remarkable for the brilliancy of their flowers, and which, unfortunately, are, comparatively speaking, scentless; like many people in this world, who sacrifice principle (*fragrance*) for appearance.

1. *The Evergreen Trumpet Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera sempervirens*).—We recollect the time when this stood alone, but now there are several of its varieties which surpass it in splendour. It bears its flowers in bunches or whorles, which are of a vivid scarlet, and continue in bloom for a long period. It is a native of North America, and was introduced so far back as 1656.
2. *Brown's Trumpet Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera Brownii*).—This, we believe, was originated at the Slough Nurseries, by the nurseryman whose name it bears. The flower is not trumpet-shaped, as the others in this section, but more after the form of the common honeysuckle. The blooms are produced in great profusion; they are large, deep scarlet outside, and bright orange in the interior; the foliage also is bold and attractive. We have had a plant of this variety, covering a stake ten feet high, in our nursery, and it has been one of the most beautiful things imaginable.
3. *Sheppard's Trumpet Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera Sheppardii*).—This is an especial favourite, and a great improvement on No. 1. It is robust in growth, producing very large racemes of trumpet-shaped flowers, of a brilliant light scarlet, with yellow interior. It appears to accommodate itself to almost any situation, except where it is very wet. It will, by its great luxuriance, speedily cover a large space of trellis work, and must, we are sure, be highly appreciated by all lovers of twining plants.

4. *The Late-flowering Trumpet Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera sempervirens serotina*).—Rather stronger in its habit than No. 1. Flowers dark scarlet, inside orange; remarkable for blooming till a later period in the season than the other varieties, whence its distinctive name.

To these may be added *L. florabunda*, and *L. major*, somewhat similar in habit to the above. We have also flowered *L. Youngii* and *L. Goldii*, but we shall be in a better position to say more about them when we have seen them flower another season. We must now allude to

5. *The Pubescent Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera pubescens*).—This beautiful and distinct sort has broad leaves, thickly set with hairs; the flowers are bright orange, and fragrant, at least in comparison with some others. It is a native of North America, introduced in 1822, and is a very desirable plant.
6. *The Yellow-flowering Honeysuckle* (*Lonicera flava*).—Not so hardy as the above. The flowers are very pretty and highly fragrant. It would require a very sheltered spot, in the midland counties.

We find we have occupied as much space as we can afford in this number, and will return to the subject again shortly.

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## DELPHINEUMS, OR PERENNIAL LARKSPURS.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE whole tribe are interesting, though some have not much beauty. We give, however, a description of some varieties which we have grown.

*The Chinese Larkspur* (*Delphinium Chinense*).—Of slender growth, in comparison with others; the leaves are finely and beautifully divided, and the flowers are produced in great profusion, varying from white, or nearly so, through all the shades of blue, to a splendid bright purple. It will rise from two feet and a half to three feet, according to situation. This variety is propagated easily by seeds; double ones are often produced, but they appear of short duration. We obtained a very pretty variety some years ago, but could not keep it: its flowers were of a deep claret, and it was styled *Delphinium rubrum* (The Red Larkspur).

Belonging to this section, there is the

- D. picta*.—Purple, with a darker blotch on each of the petals.—*D. alba flore pleno* (The Double White Larkspur).—This was figured some years ago, in the *Floricultural Cabinet*, but we hear very little of it now.—The *Delphinium Hulmii* is grown considerably round Manchester. It has light blue double flowers, and is very interesting and pretty.
- The Large-lipped Larkspur* (*Delphinium cheilanthum*).—A very fine and showy sort; light purple, the petals broad, and the flowers produced in large spikes.

This variety is the parent of the very handsome

- Barlow's Larkspur* (*Delphinium Barlowii*).—One of the most showy and attractive herbaceous plants cultivated. The flowers are deep purple, shaded, and large; the stamens are metamorphosed into petals, thus forming double flowers. It will rise from three to four feet.

We have been in the habit of prolonging the season of this beautiful plant, by cutting down every alternate row of a large bed, when the plants had risen a foot. Those which had not been cut down bloomed at the usual period, whilst the others emitted fresh flower stems, and produced noble spikes in the autumn.

- The Musk-scented Larkspur* (*Delphinium moschatum*).—A coarse-looking variety, growing six feet high, and producing dark purple single flowers. The blooms have a strong scent of musk, whence its name. To those who are fond of this peculiar odour, this sort will be an acquisition. Flowers generally in July.

- The Sad-flowered Larkspur* (*Delphinium triste*).—A most appropriate name. The flowers are nearly black. It is rather dwarf in its habit, seldom growing higher than two feet. From its character, we should suppose that it would hold the same position amongst herbaceous plants for cemeteries as the yew does amongst trees.

As a contrast to the above, we may mention the very beautiful

- Dwarf Double Larkspur* (*Delphinium elegans flore pleno*).—This variety is different from *D. grandiflora*, of which we shall speak by and by, being more compact in growth and spike of flowers, and of a more lively blue. It is of low growth, and very pretty, but appears rather difficult to keep, the snails attacking it unmercifully, and eating off the buds as fast as they make their appearance. Flowers in July.

*The White Bee Larkspur* (*Delphinium mesolucum*).—A very distinct variety, flowering in spikes. The flowers are of a bright blue, the inner petals being white, and have the appearance of the wings of a bee. It is erect in its growth, and will often reach four or five feet.

*The Tall Common Bee Larkspur* (*Delphinium elatum*).—This we have seen seven and eight feet high. The flowers are produced in long spikes, and are very dark purple, the centre of each having the figure of a bee, with black wings. It is coarse-growing, but well adapted for the back of flower borders.

*The Alpine Bee Larkspur* (*Delphinium alpinum*).—Somewhat similar to the above in habit, but does not get quite so tall, and the flowers are light blue, with a black bee centre.

*The Double Alpine Bee Larkspur* (*Delphinium alpinum pleno*).—We flowered this beautifully last season, but unfortunately lost it during the past winter. Its spike of flowers were close set to the stem, the most interesting azure blue, and semi-double.

*The Large-flowering Double Larkspur* (*Delphinium grandiflorum*).—Flowers very double, and of a fine deep purple; rises about three feet high, and ought to be extensively cultivated.

*The Larger-flowering Larkspur* (*Delphinium grandiflora major*).—One of the most splendid, and when well grown, reaches six feet high, or even more, branching out from the ground, with a profusion of large double flowers, of a peculiar bright light purple. This variety must be seen to be appreciated; it is decidedly a first-rate hardy plant.

We have thus given a description of the best that have hitherto come under our observation, the whole of which are highly ornamental and desirable. Any of our readers who possess new varieties, or seedlings of their own growth, which differ in habit, or are an improvement on any of those previously named, will confer a favour on ourselves and the public, by communicating with us.

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CAMELLIA STOCKS.—Mr. Barnes, of Bicton, in the *Gardener's Chronicle*, recommends *Camellia reticulata* to be grown for stocks, to engraft the varieties of *C. Japonica* upon, on account of its stronger growth. He also suggests that itself would grow more vigorously, and keep in better health, if it were grown on its own roots; the stocks upon which it is usually worked being, in his estimation, incapable of duly maintaining it.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

**REINETTE DU CANADA APPLE.**—Though not very new, this excellent sort ought to be more extensively known. It is large, and of first-rate quality, and is good either for culinary purposes or dessert. It keeps well, and is a good bearer.

**WALTHAM ABBEY SEEDLING.**—This is a fine kitchen apple, raised from the pippin, by a relative of ours, formerly ordnance store keeper, at Waltham Abbey. We particularly recommend it, for it is not only large and handsome, but it is very sweet, and does not require much sugar, when cooked.

**PREMIER CURRANT.**—This is a very fine red seedling, raised in the neighbourhood of Nottingham. The tree, four years old, has produced more than eight pounds of currants, this season. It hangs very late; we went into the garden of the party who owns it, to-day (the 10th of September), and gathered some large and fine fruit, of excellent quality, though it had not been protected in any way. The bunches are very long, and the berries of great size.



## FLOWERS.

## GERANIUMS.

*Arnold's Virgin Queen.*—A very beautiful variety. It is of fine form, the lower petals white, the upper ones nearly covered with plum colour, with the exception of a narrow lacing of white. It grows in very pretty style, and is a decided acquisition.

*Madame Grisi*.—A very pretty fancy variety, from France. The top petals are dark marone, edged with white; the lower petals are lighter, also margined with white; it has also a distinct white centre.

### PICOTEES.

We have received the following note from a first-rate judge and cultivator, on whose opinion we can confidently rely.

*Jenny Lind* (Burroughes).—Very fine light-edged red; the white is capital.

*Lorina* (Burroughes).—The best that this successful cultivator has yet raised. It is a beautiful variety, light purple-edged, gently cupped petals, with a well finished centre.

*La Polka* (Fellowes).—Heavy-edged rose, a fine and full flower, of very superior quality; it appears, however, to be a very indifferent grower, which will necessarily render it scarce.

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## NEW PLANTS,

FOR BEDDING OUT IN SUMMER, BUT WHICH REQUIRE PROTECTION DURING WINTER.

### CALCEOLARIAS.

*Albiflora*.—This is a very interesting species, with pure white flowers and beautiful foliage, continuing to throw up its spikes of blooms for a long period.

*Amplexicaulis*.—Blooms most abundantly. The flowers are large, and of fine lemon yellow. From the circumstance of the mouth being closed, it is not injured by wet, as many varieties are, when grown in the open border.

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## HARDY PERENNIAL PLANTS.

*DIANTHUS SUPERBUS*.—A beautiful variety of the mule pink, or, in fact, a hybrid. It produces its double flowers in the style of the *Dianthus aggregatus*, forming a large head of scarlet blooms, very broadly edged with white.

**GALLARDIA WELLSIANA.** (*Wells's Gallardia*).—A very showy autumnal herbaceous plant. The flowers are yellow, with a broad circle of dark red surrounding the disk. This, and *Gallardia maxima*, and *Gallardia splendens*, are three very handsome and well marked varieties.

#### HOLLYHOCKS.

*Bella Donna*.—A most superb white, of fine form, well filled centre, and great purity.

*Affghan* (Gibbons).—A dark puce, the centre well filled, and the guard petals the very best we have yet seen, more like leather than anything else. A very fine variety.



#### TREES AND SHRUBS.

**THE ROSEMARY-LEAVED HOLLY.** (*Ilex Rosmarinifolia*).—A very singular evergreen, with narrow leaves. This variety has not long been introduced from the Continent, and though plants are on sale, still it is very scarce.

In thorns, we have two new varieties; one *weeping*, and the other also *pendulous*, with variegated leaves. They are both very interesting and pretty.

There are also several variegated oaks (*Quercus robur*), that are desirable. We obtained a silver-striped one from the Continent, a few years ago, perfectly distinct from any other that we have ever seen. It is remarkably handsome.

**CASTANEA VESCA TRICOLOR.** (*The Tricolored Spanish Chestnut*).—A very remarkable variety. The leaves are narrower than the species generally, and much ribbed; they are very constantly striped with yellow, and suffused with a copper-coloured tint. It is of compact habit, and worked as a dwarf, would make a good addition to variegated hollies, &c.



## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## SCHOOL GARDENS.

**RULES FOR THE GARDENS BELONGING TO THE HIGH-PAYEMENT CHAPEL [NOTTINGHAM] BOYS' SUNDAY SCHOOL, ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY, 1841, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING HEALTHFUL RECREATION AND INTELLECTUAL AMUSEMENT FOR THE ELDER SCHOLARS.**

WE have had the small pamphlet containing the rules above-stated placed in our hands, and with great pleasure notice them.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Nottingham, are an immense number of small gardens, occupied and cultivated by all grades of society; and with a most laudable and praiseworthy feeling, the friends connected with the above-mentioned place of worship have purchased two of these enclosures, in each of which is a commodious summer-house. One of these gardens is cultivated by the elder boys of their school, the other by their juniors. Each garden is subdivided into smaller allotments, which are assigned to their respective tenants, boys from ten to fourteen years old, who cultivate and crop them according to their own fancy, a small portion of each being devoted to flowers.

The diligence and ability displayed by these youthful gardeners, is really astonishing. We have inspected their crops during several past summers, and with truth, can say, we were highly delighted with them. The onions, lettuce, celery, carrots, potatoes, &c. were excellent, and would vie with the productions of older and more experienced cultivators. Prize gooseberries are also grown, and this year, the crops of London, Companion, Gunner, Eagle, &c. were amongst the best we have ever seen, either at

Nottingham, or elsewhere ; in fact, these boys always endeavour to obtain, either of seeds or plants, the best varieties possible. In connection with these gardens, and to excite emulation, a vegetable and flower show is instituted. This is held in the school-room, at Nottingham, and prizes are given for the best productions in vegetables, as well as for stands of pansies, verbenas, collections of annual and perennial flowers, and nosegays, or *bouquets*, as they are called by some, but we fancy our readers will like the old English name best. These exhibitions of youthful skill and industry are well attended. On the management we can offer no suggestion, except that we think it would add to the sources of information, if a prize were given for the most correctly named collection of plants, both as regards the scientific name and the proper spelling of it. They might succeed very indifferently at first, but we are sure the experiment would be attended with satisfactory results. It will be seen by the rules, that each boy pays a slight acknowledgment ; and the gardens are only awarded to those who by good behaviour and diligence at school, render themselves worthy of becoming tenants.

The rules are short and to the point, and we give them, as they may guide other philanthropic individuals in establishing similar institutions.

1. The gardens shall be under the management of the superintendent, who shall collect the rents, and manage all matters connected therewith.

2. The rent to be paid monthly. Any one being more than two months in arrear, shall forfeit his right to occupy.

3. All incidental expenses, such as purchasing and repairing tools, &c. shall be defrayed by yearly subscription, contributed by friends interested in the gardens.

4. The tenants shall keep their parts in a good state of cultivation, by manuring and proper attention. Any one neglecting to do this, will, after one month's proper notice has been given by the superintendent, have his part taken from him.

5. If a tenant wish at any time to give up his part, he must give one month's notice of such intention, to the superintendent.

6. Any tenant taking any flowers, fruit, or vegetables, without the consent of the owner, shall, for the first offence, pay such a

fine as the superintendent shall determine upon; and if the offence is repeated, he shall be excluded from the gardens, and forfeit all claim to the produce on his part.

7. Proper places shall be assigned for the tools, which must be cleaned and put away again, after being used.

8. The keys of the gardens shall be kept at the superintendent's house; and any one going to the gardens, must take the road pointed out by the superintendent, and return the same way with the keys, to prevent disappointment. Any one breaking this rule, shall be fined sixpence.

9. All fines to be paid to the superintendent, and by him appropriated to the general expenses of the garden.

We should be glad to see this system carried out through Great Britain and Ireland. Every clergyman might do incalculable good in his parish, by this simple means, and put a stop, in a great measure, to the mischievous assemblages of idle boys, which unfortunately are seen in most villages. Every community of Dissenters should also adopt the plan; and to all the benevolent and kind hearted we would especially recommend it. The seeds of industry, emulation, attention, and good feeling, might thus be sown throughout the length and breadth of the land, and a good spirit engendered in the lower classes, towards those above them (for parents and children would reap the benefit), which would grow with their growth, and be the best guarantee for the preservation of order and the rights of property. We earnestly trust these hints will not be made in vain. In these troublous times, conciliation must be adopted, and it is useless building churches and chapels, unless some means are used to inculcate a right feeling in the hearts of our rising and rapidly increasing population.

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### PROTECTING TENDER PLANTS DURING WINTER.

WE extract the following appropriate and seasonable remarks from the *Gardener's Chronicle*. We are quite sure they will be serviceable:—

There are many productions in the flower garden which occupy a dubious position, between those which

are hardy or tender, and to these the best care of the gardener should be given. It is not desirable to fill pits and frames more than absolute necessity demands, on account of the great trouble entailed by the operation; besides, we should aim at training plants to bear the severity of our winter.

In the first place, ascertain which roots or shrubs may be left to themselves, which will require protection in frames, and which are doubtful. It is in reference to the latter class, that I propose to offer a few observations.

In mild winters, the most tender roses will sustain little injury, even if fully exposed to the weather; the same may be said of wallflowers and similar plants; but a *severe season* will disfigure or kill some of these, and therefore precautions must be taken; but protecting must not be begun too early. We often see a garden strangely metamorphosed, by conical piles of straw, and short dung, either tied round the stems of fuchsias, &c. or laid at the roots of other things, presumed to be tender. Now this is often done before any frost appears, and with the thermometer above temperate. This is taking time by the forelock in a wrong sense; for wrapping up is to be avoided altogether, if possible, and only to be resorted to in the last extremity. If a little care is taken to have protecting materials in readiness, you may safely wait for a *first frost*, which rarely does any injury; and then, if the day indicates the recurrence of the dreaded visiter, proceed with your operations. Bear in mind that this should not be done till the middle of November, for frosts before that time are generally innocuous (*seldom hurtful*) in reference to the tribes of plants I am now speaking of.

If it is desired to protect roots, conical heaps of some dry substance may be used. I believe all fuchsias will do well with this treatment. If moss is abundant, and your garden not large, some placed over these heaps, and fastened by little sticks, will make you more secure, and enliven the dulness of the beds. I am inclined to think that dahlias would

be more safe in this way than any other. It is certain that these roots often perish from various causes, when taken up and stored away; whilst one accidentally left in the ground, often sprouts in the spring. If about six inches of some protecting material were placed over the crown, I have no doubt the roots would be found in a fine growing state for spring forcing. Roses, and other plants with woody stems, which run any risk, should have the soil banked up over the stems, and a little moss spread over them, as above directed. The branches may be tied up neatly with straw; but the plan I adopt, is very preferable to any other I know of.

I plant cuttings of laurels and other evergreens amongst the branches of the the trees I wish to preserve, by which a gay and lively appearance is added to the security afforded. Of course, this can only be done where evergreens are plentiful; but I would suggest that they should be grown for this purpose, in every garden of any size. I have some round beds, about a yard and a half in diameter, filled with tender roses, which I have subjected to the following process:—Having a large number of layers of laurestinus, well rooted, and not knowing exactly where to plant them to advantage, I have put them in these rose beds, in the spaces between the trees. I expect the following advantages from this plan:—First, the laurestinuses and roses will protect each other in severe weather. Secondly, the mixture will have a fine effect, when the roses are in bloom. Third, the young evergreens will be nursing up for a year or two, as well there as any where else, and when too large for the beds, may be permanently removed.

I think this plan may be advantageously adopted in many cases, and young trees, now located in the nursery, made to increase the beauty of the garden, and afford protection to more tender objects.

Many frozen plants may be preserved from injury, by preventing their being thawed by the rays of the sun. This may be effected by throwing mats over

them, and not removing them till the frost is gone. Tender climbers, against walls, should have a mat lightly nailed over them. As a general rule, coverings must be removed as soon as possible from all growing stems, such as roses, fuchsias, &c. If this is not done, in mild weather, they will push forth their buds prematurely.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL has for its embellishment some prettily marked varieties of cineraria (seedlings), with remarks on their cultivation ; also papers on the Oxalis, Forcing Roses, Transplanting, Lists of New Plants, Bedding Plants, Mignonette for the Winter, &c. Many of our readers, we know, have small greenhouses, pits, &c. and may wish to force a few roses ; the following remarks will be of service to them :—"Roses, when grown in pots, require very good soil ; under any circumstances this is necessary, but still more so when they are to be subject to the enervation of forcing. Turfy loam, and thoroughly rotten manure, in the proportions of two and one, together with a little sharp sand, make an excellent compost, and the pots being well drained, the plants may be put into such a mixture, without reducing the branches for the present, or indulging in any pruning, except the removal of a lacerated root appears to be required. For six weeks, or two months, they should stand out of doors, in a warm part of the garden, the object being to completely ripen the branches ; and when this is completed, which will be by the middle of October, they may be cut down in the usual way, and taken into a cold pit or frame. A month's preparation here, by the aid of a slightly raised temperature, consequent on keeping the lights closed, will induce the buds to swell, and then a gentle application

of heat will enable them to burst, and commence growing with the desired vigour. It is an essential point in forcing roses, even where thoroughly established plants are employed, to avoid any sudden changes of temperature; and as we are speaking of such as were potted only in the preceding autumn, especial care must be insisted on, in this respect; and, as allowance has to be made for their imperfect condition, it is not advisable to introduce them to heat before the end of November, so as to afford them as much time as possible to make fresh roots, and obtain a good hold of the new soil."

**THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.**—We have here two beautiful cinerarias, *Madame Cerito* and *Climax*. The first is white, with a broad light blue margin; the latter has also a white ground, with a deep edging of lively crimson. They have been raised from seed, by Mr. A. Henderson, of Wellington-road, London, and are stated to be of very dwarf and compact habit. We quote the following plan of cultivating these pretty plants, for two reasons. First, because it appears simple, and may be easily understood and acted on. Secondly, the directions are short, and therefore well suited for our pages:—"Turn out the old plants (after undergoing a thorough cleansing process) into a raised bed, in the month of June. The bed should be composed of one-half leaf mould, or other vegetable matter, with sharp sand; and if soiled up pretty close to the stem, abundance of fine young plants will be ready for pots by the early part of August; they should then be taken up, shaken entirely apart, and the plants singled out for general potting. The soil should be equal parts of leaf mould, peat, old cow dung, charcoal or wood ashes, strong loam, and sharp sand; remembering in all these matters to drain the pots completely. Nothing is then necessary, but to place them all behind a wall, on the north side, immediately they are potted, and to sprinkle them well. About the middle of Sep-

tember, they will require their final shifting into larger pots, using the same kind of soil, in a rougher state. The plants may then be put in a cold pit, near the glass, as they like abundance of light. They should be watered moderately, and removed to the greenhouse, or sitting-room, when required for bloom." There are also interesting articles on the *Nerium Oleander*, *The Violet*, *Pinks*, *Salvia Gesnerifolia*, &c.

THE FLORIST is embellished with two beautiful pinks, *Young's Double X*, and a variety called *Mr. Edwards*. Of the former we have had blooms sent to us, and can testify that this fine variety is fully equal to its representation. This is a good number, the principal articles being, On raising Cross-bred Plants, a system which we strongly advocate. A Review of the Pink Season of 1848. The following new ones are stated to be fine, though our Lancashire and Yorkshire readers must be prepared to find some full flowers amongst them:—

*Honourable Mrs. Herbert* (Keynes).—A dark purple lace, and full flower, petals of medium size.

*Jenny Lind* (Harrison), alias *Mary Ann* (Read).—We have seen this flower, and according to our notions, "*it will do.*" We are sorry to see it with an *alias* so soon. We have received it and it is advertised as "*Read's Jenny Lind.*"

*Narborough Nymph*, and *Captain Tysson* (Maclean).—Both dark heavily laced flowers.

*Mr. Edwards* (Turner).—Rose-coloured, smooth, full, and fine.

*Mrs. Edwards* (Keynes).—Said to be a sweet, rose-coloured flower.

*Mary* (Ellis).—An improvement on Masterpiece.

*King* (Henbury).—Dark and good; rather thin for the south, but likely to suit the north.

*Harkford* (Smith).—A very beautiful purple-laced flower.

*Lola Montes* (Costar).—An improvement on Gaylad.

The other articles are, *Amaryllids*, a very useful paper, by Mr. Carter. *Beck's Pelargoniums*, by Mr. Dobson, distinguishing the periods of the year when the different varieties are in their greatest perfection. The following are best in May, and the early part of



the season :—Rosamond, Aurora, Hebe's Lip, Rosy Circle, Cruento, Arabella, Bacchus, and Resplendent. In June and July, Cassandra, Desdemona, Honora, Mustee, Grandiflora, Isabella, Emelia, Sundown, and Delicatissima, will be in their true character; whilst the succeeding sorts, Gulielma, Centurion, Cavalier, Competitor, Gustavus, and Blanche, are good all the season. To those who cultivate these beautiful flowers, these hints, we are sure, will prove useful. Town Roses, a list of those varieties most likely to succeed near cities, &c. There is also an interesting paper, by Dr. Maclean, of Colchester, with capital wood engravings, on Insects which infest the Rose Tree. On the Treatment of the Ranunculus, with a few Remarks. On the Carnation and Picotee Bloom of the Present Season. Here we are glad to see our friend, Mr. Marris's (of Leicester) flowers so highly spoken of, corroborating our previously-expressed opinion of them. It remarks, Marris's Prince Albert, heavy purple-edged, is a noble variety, having a good number of well formed and well arranged petals, without confusion in the centre; and Prince of Wales, heavy red-edged, is equal to the former. These are about the best in their respective classes. Want of space precludes our noticing the other new varieties. We shall, however, do so in our next.

### Part III.

## REVIEW.

A SELECT AND DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF FRUITS  
FOR THE MIDLAND COUNTIES. By A. Godwin.

WE have received a list from Mr. A. Godwin, nurseryman, &c. Collycroft, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, of the best fruits for the midland Counties, of which we shall avail ourselves, from time to time. There are

several remarks which are much to the point, and as they are likely to be very useful, we shall extract them for the benefit of our readers.

"Those possessing but small gardens may, by a judicious selection, secure a succession of fruits of the first quality, from a small space of ground, before considered impracticable to obtain; particularly when attention is paid to summer-shortening, and thinning of the shoots, and a gentle pruning in of the roots every third year. When this is attended to, with a tolerable soil and well-drained bottom, success will be certain. It is to be observed, that one great secret of success is the production of as great a quantity of fibrous root, near the surface of the soil, as possible, and this object will be attained by attention to the above. This principle being established, it will be seen that it must aim a death blow at deep planting, which, to make use of a homely phrase, "*is one mode of burying them alive.*" It also to a considerable extent counteracts the pernicious effects of a bad subsoil, which too frequently leads to barrenness, disease, and not unfrequently to the destruction of the tree, however valuable the sort planted."

## QUERIES.



I have before troubled you respecting a plot of ground which I have in possession. I told you it was of a clayey nature, but that proves not to be the true soil, but what has been dug out of the foundations of several houses. It is of a dark brown colour in general, but there is some of it of a red colour. I wish to know which is the best time to put on the lime, to dig it in, and allow the soil to lie in ridges during the winter. If lime be used, will it be proper or necessary to use stable dung? What effect would night soil have on it, dug in, and thrown up in ridges, through the winter? An answer to these queries, if you please, next month. I went to a seedsman, at Ashton, and asked him for the Scarlet Beet and Stone-topped Turnip, which you mentioned, but he said they were fictitious names. Be pleased to say which is the best time to plant rhubarb, and which is the most preferable sort.

Ashton-under-Lyne.

J. W.

EVERGREENS.—Having several varieties of evergreens in my garden (which is small), I have been informed that they exhaust the soil more than any other trees. Is this correct? The soil of my garden is a light sandy loam.

AN AMATEUR.

**HELIOTROPES.**—A list of the new varieties of this fragrant and beautiful plant, will be esteemed by A YOUNG FLORIST.

**VERBENAS.**—I have several varieties of verbenas bedded out, which I am anxious to preserve during the winter. Please inform me how I can effect this. Not having a greenhouse or frame, I lost many last winter, by frost. T. B. S.

[If they are obliged to remain in the ground, small wicker baskets may be placed over them, after the long straggling shoots have been cut off; and in very severe weather, some moss, or other protecting material may be heaped on them.]

**WINTERING TENDER PLANTS.**—I have raised many young fuchsias, geraniums, salvias, and verbenas, this season, and not having a greenhouse or frame, I am at a loss how to preserve them during the winter. They are all very small plants, and are now in the open air. How long should they remain exposed? A reply in your next number will oblige

A SINCERE FRIEND.

If you would give in your next, or some early number, a descriptive list of a few of the best and most distinct antirrhinums, fuchsias, and petunias, similar to the list of verbenas, in your May number; and also the names of a few hardy and showy flowering plants, best adapted for a shaded situation, and which can be easily obtained, you will confer an especial favour on

AN AMATEUR AND A CONSTANT READER.

[If none of our correspondents supply the desired information, we will do so in our next.]

I should be pleased to be informed in your next number of the *Midland Florist*, what soil is best adapted for tulips, carnations, pinks, picotees, and pansies; and also what you call night soil.

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE SECOND VOLUME.

[As a general rule, the more simple the compost the better for the health of the plants. Decayed leaves, or thoroughly decomposed vegetable matter, ought to enter largely into the compost for the plants alluded to. Night soil is human ordure, and is one of the most powerful of manures. Its designation arises from the circumstance of its generally being removed during the night.]

The Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society, to which I am a subscriber, and am entitled to show as an amateur, classify parties competing for prizes as follows:—1. *Gentlemen keeping gardeners*, nurserymen, market gardeners, and *gentlemen's gardeners*. 2. For *amateurs* only.—At the bottom of their schedule of prizes are these words, "Any person who cultivates his own garden, or employs only an occasional assistant, and does not grow for sale, will be considered an amateur." The eighth rule says, "That every production exhibited for a prize shall be the

growth of the member exhibiting the same, and shall be bona fide his property." At the last Oxford show, two persons were successful in gaining prizes, as amateurs. One is a professional gentleman, whose garden is attended to by a regular gardener, who, though not always in constant work at this garden, does all that is required to it, and the gentleman himself knows little or nothing of the produce, except when he partakes of it at table. The other has a house and garden provided for him, as well as a good salary; and a servant (not his own, but employed and paid by the county of Oxford) cultivates this garden. I believe this gentleman does occasionally walk in the garden, but never works in it. Will you oblige me by your opinion, in your next number, as the general meeting, at which I intend to raise an objection to these parties showing in the amateur's class, will be held next month, and I particularly wish your answer, for use on that occasion.

1st. Whether these parties are amateur horticulturalists, within the meaning of the rules of our society, as mentioned?—[*Certainly they are.*]

2nd. What is your definition of an amateur horticulturalist?—[One who cultivates his garden with a view to his own pleasure rather than profit, whether he keeps a gardener or not.]

3rd. Whether these parties have broken the eighth rule, by showing productions not their own growth?—[Certainly not: if they were grown in *their own gardens*, and cultivated by an occasional gardener, or servant, they are their own growth.]

Lastly. Are these parties such as ought to shew as *gentlemen keeping gardeners*? or ought those employed to show as *gentlemen's gardeners*?—[This is a nice distinction. Those employed could show as gentlemen's gardeners; but we think it would be stretching the law too much to make the parties in question compete with *gentlemen keeping gardeners*, as this rule is evidently made to meet the case of those who keep a large establishment, and have *regular and scientific* gardeners.]

By attending to the above, you will much oblige your subscriber from the first,

Oxford, Aug. 15.

G. B.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



**EVERGREEN OAK.**—A Young Arborist asks whether this tree will make a *suitable plant for a hedge, &c.* We should say yes. We well recollect, many years ago, seeing a very beautiful hedge formed of these plants. It was at Itchenor, near Chichester, Sussex, near the residence of Mr. William Gibbs. It was at least ten feet high, and kept in regular clipping.

The trees are best planted young, say two years old; they are more safely removed when they have been kept in pots, though they are more expensive. We have several interesting varieties: they are the Silver-striped Evergreen Oak, not so robust as the green variety; the Round-leaved Evergreen Oak, with very short foliage; and the Laurel-leaved variety, with long smooth foliage. The finest specimens that we know of in this part of the country, are at Clifton Hall, near Nottingham, the seat of Sir J. Clifton, Bart.

**TO PLANT AND LAY OUT A SMALL SPACE IN FRONT OF A HOUSE, ETC.**—In reply to Mr. James, we must advise him, if he have a small grass plat, not to destroy its breadth by an odd looking bed in the centre. It is always good policy to have the beds as near the margin of the walks as may be; the contents may then be examined at any time, without going on the grass, a point of great importance to invalids, especially in damp weather. The beds will be best in some simple form, circular for instance, of various sizes, and made to have an harmonious connection. These, if not too large, may be filled each with plants of a kind: for instance, escholtzia (yellow) in one, petunia (crimson) in another, scarlet verbena, annagallis (blue), &c. in others. These would make a fine display in the summer months. Then some specimen evergreens might be kept in large pots; such as evergreen oaks, variegated hollies, aucubas, Variegated Tree Ivy, alaternuses; or if the party preferred scarcer plants, Araucaria imbricata, Cedrus Deodara, Hemlock Spruce Fir, Irish Yew and its varieties, &c. These, when the display of flowers was ended by autumn frosts, might be sunk into the centre of these circular beds, and would be extremely interesting during winter. In the spring, they might be removed, and the beds made up and planted with flowers, varying them according to the fancy of the owner.

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## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR OCTOBER.

So much of the beauty of the flower garden depends on *annuals* and *half hardy plants*, that it requires some foresight and attention to prepare for the period when these things are wanted. Those of our readers who have a pit, frame, or greenhouse, should sow *Ten-week stocks*, *mignonette*, *Collinsia bicolor*, *Erysimum Peroffskianum*, &c. or any other seeds adapted for this purpose, that they may have saved during summer, in pots of

fine light soil, so that they may be preserved during winter. These, when pricked out in spring, will have considerable start of those which are sown in the open ground, and thus prolong the season of enjoyment. We recommend these things to the artizan, in opposition to the sapient *Leicester magistrate*, who, the other day, deducted two shillings from the valuation of a poor man's garden, because *he thought flowers were out of place there!!* In mercy to his sad want of philanthropy, we withhold his name; but we will guarantee he is no florist himself, and but a poor judge of the humanizing effects of flowers; and we cannot help observing here, that we hold the sight of a few flowers in the poor man's garden, as an evidence of taste and feeling highly creditable to him. But we must go on with our directions.

*Biennials*, plants that usually are sown one season and bloom the next, should be put out where they are to flower. These are *sweetwilliams*, *scabiouses*, *Canterbury bells*, &c. good old plants, that every body loves, unless, perhaps, it be the *Leicester exception*.

The trailing stems of *verbenas*, if examined, will be found rooted; these may be cut off, and stuck round the sides of pots. *Lobelias* too, should be divided and planted singly in pots. Some herbaceous varieties are nearly hardy, but they will be better protected.

*Pansies* may still be struck, or divided, as the case may be; and late seedlings, that have any good points about them, had better be reserved for spring flowering.

It often happens that there are such things as *scarlet geraniums*, *salvias*, *heliotropes*, *bouvardias*, and *cupheas* (all of which are beautiful), that have decorated the border during summer; these may be carefully taken up, and potted in large pots. With a little trouble (avoiding damp), they may be kept through the winter, and will make splendid plants for the same purpose, next summer.

*Carnations* should be potted off without delay. We usually place a pair in a pint pot. Directions in full, for their management, are given in our first volume.

*Tulip beds* should be immediately prepared, and thrown up in ridges, that they may be levelled down any day, for planting, when the weather is suitable. *Offsets* will be better in the ground directly.

Snails will often, at this season, damage *auriculas* and *polyanthuses*: the plants must be carefully examined, and the under part of the pots will frequently be found their hiding place.

*Dahlias*.—Should the weather prove fine, these will continue to afford a great number of fine blooms. Gather seed whenever ready, and earth up the stems, to guard against sudden frost.

In the vegetable garden, we hope a good breadth of *broccoli*, *savoy*s, &c. have been planted out, to provide against the serious

deficiency in the *potato* crop. As *seed potatoes* will be of great importance, we would recommend those who have any free from disease, or any new varieties, to store them in layers. They will be worth the trouble. Suppose in an outhouse, *potatoes* were laid on the floor, just touching each other; then procure some dry burnt clay ashes, say a cart load, to which has been added two bushels of slacked lime, mix these well together, and just cover the *potatoes*; then put another layer of *potatoes*, and another of ashes, and so on, till the heap is finished; but we would not have it too high. We saw some *potatoes*, from which the diseased ones had previously been selected, kept in this way, last season, and though when removed in the spring, some showed traces of disease, it appeared that its effects had in a great measure been arrested by the action of the lime and ashes; and our opinion is, that this is certainly the safest way of preserving them.

Prick out *cauliflowers*. In cottagers' gardens, when the kidney bean rods are done with, they may be laid lengthwise on each side of the rows, that in severe weather, the bine or haulm may be thrown lightly over them, which will afford great protection from cutting winds, frost, &c.

Every available space should be cropped with *cabbage*; and *lettuce* should be planted in sheltered situations. Store all sorts of roots, as *parsnips*, *beet*, *carrots*, &c. and manure and ridge up all ground reserved for spring crops.

*Fruit trees* may be removed the latter end of the month, and *evergreens* now.

## FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

### CAMBRIDGE FLORISTS' SOCIETY,

Held in the Concert Room at the Lion Hotel, May 18.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, R. Headly, Esq., Thalia; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. R. Headly, Esq., for Majestic, Sir Harry Smith, Thomas Brown, Earl Douglas, Thomas Brown, and Coronation.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3, and 4. R. Headly, Esq., for Strong's King, Polyphemus, Strong's King, and Osiris; 5. Mr. B. Dickerson, Polyphemus; 6. R. Headly, Esq., The Wonder.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. R. Headly, Esq., Penelope; 2, and 3. Mr. B. Dickerson, Prince Albert and Prince Albert; 4, and 5. Mr. Twitchett, for Penelope and Queen Victoria; 6. Mr. Ready, Lawrence's Friend.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, 2, 3, and 4. R. Headly, Esq., for Thalia, Acapulica, Thalia, and Surpass Salvator Rosa; 5. Mr. B. Dickerson, David; 6. R. Headly, Esq., Rutley's Queen.

*Feathered Roses*.—1, 2, and 3. R. Headly, Esq., for Magnificent, Cameuse de Croix, and Brilliant; 4. Mr. B. Dickerson, Aglaia; 5, and 6. R. Headly, Esq., for Maria and Mary Ann.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, and 2. R. Headly, Esq., for Dutch Ponceau and Cameuse de Croix; 3. Mr. Ready, Generia; 4. Mr. F. B. Smith, Lord Hill; 5. R. Headly, Esq., Aglaia; 6. Mr. Ready, Triumph Royal.

## DERBY TULIP SHOW, May 24.

Best collection of seven dissimilar blooms.—1. Mr. John Gibbons, for *Magnum Bonum*, *Pilot*, *Orleans*, *Grace Darling*, *Triumph Royal*, *Lady Wilmot*, and *Catherine Breeder*; 2. Mr. Parkinson, for *Bresson*, *Captain White*, *Grand Sultan*, *Salvator Rosa*, *Lady Middleton*, *Triumph Royal*, and *Seedling*; 3. Mr. Smith, for *Pas Perfecta*, *Sir Sidney Smith*, *Washington*, *Queen Charlotte*, *Lady Crewe*, *Aglala*, and *Amelia Breeder*; 4. Mr. Thomas Gibbons, for *Magnum Bonum*, *Pilot*, *Lady Flora*, *Princess Royal*, *Triumph Royal*, *Unknown*, and *Breeder*.

## AMATEUR CLASS.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—Premier, Mr. John Smith, *Duc de Savoy*; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Parkinson, for *Grand Duke*, *Surpass Optimus*, and *Royal Sovereign*; 4. Mr. John Smith, *Trafalgar*; 5. Mr. Parkinson, *La Perfecta*; 6. Wm. Astle, *Magnum Bonum*; 7. Mr. Parkinson, *Sans Joe*.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—Premier, Mr. Parkinson, *Captain White*; 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Mr. Parkinson, for *Captain White*, *Pilot*, *Polyphemus*, *Lustre de Beauty*, *Albion*, and *Captain White*; 6. Mr. Astle, *Unknown*.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—Premier, Mr. Parkinson, *Maid of Orleans*; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Astle, for *Gibbon's Seedling*, *Maitre Partout*, and *Maitre Partout*; 4. Mr. Smith, *Norwich Baguet*.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—Premier, Mr. Astle, *Violet Wallers*; 1, 2, and 3. Mr. Parkinson, for *Countess of Harrington*, *Violet le Grand*, and *La bien Emma*; 4, and 5. Mr. Smith, for *Bonaparte* and *Norwich Baguet*; 6. Mr. Astle, *Gibbons's Seedling*; 7. Mr. Parkinson, *Princess Royal*.

*Feathered Roses*.—Premier, Mr. Parkinson, *Hero of the Nile*; 1. Mr. Smith, *Queen Boadicea*; 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Parkinson, for *Hero of the Nile*, *Lady Middleton*, and *Mrs. Mundy*.

*Flamed Roses*.—Premier, Mr. Astle, *Triumph Royal*; 1. Mr. Smith, *Aglala*; 2. Mr. Parkinson, *Lady Wilmot*; 3. Mr. Smith, *Rose Unique*; 4. Mr. Astle, *Sanspareil*; 5, and 6. Mr. Parkinson, for *Mrs. Bradshaw* and *Vesta*; 7. Mr. Smith, *Lady Colville*.

*Seeds*.—Premier, Mr. Smith, *Amelia Breeder*; 1, and 2. Mr. Parkinson, for *Seedling Breeder* and *Unique Breeder*; 3. Mr. Smith, *Breeder*; 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Parkinson, for *Seedling Breeder*, *Maid of Orleans Breeder*, and *Seedling Breeder*; 7. Mr. Smith, *Min d'Or Breeder*.

## FALKIRK FLORICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The second exhibition for the season took place on Saturday the 27th of May, in the parish school room. On this occasion the pans of tulips brought forward by Mr. David Draper and Mr. Charles Jeffrey, were found by the judges to be equal in merit, and consequently the competition was a drawn fight. The pan shown by Mr. Draper contained—feathered rose, *Zuill's Mary Lamb*; flamed rose, *Sysigambis*; feathered byblæmen, *Reid's Tam o' Shanter*; flamed byblæmen, *Cramoisi Pourpre*; feathered bizarre, *Waterloo*; flamed bizarre, *Salamanca*. Mr. Jeffrey's pan contained—feathered rose, *Clark's Imogene*; flamed rose, *Ceres a belle Forme*; feathered byblæmen, *Reid's Charles XII.*; flamed byblæmen, *La Pucelle*; feathered bizarre, *Don Carlos*; flamed bizarre, *Charbonnier Noir*. The third best pan was brought forward by Mr. Gair, and contained the following flowers—feathered rose, *Reid's 39*; flamed rose, *Cerise primo Superb*; feathered byblæmen, *Non plus ultra Rectifé*; flamed byblæmen, *Non plus ultra Barbue*; feathered bizarre, *Waterloo*; flamed bizarre, *Polyphemus*. The competition for the classes was decided as follows:—

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3. Mr. Draper, for *Waterloo*, *Lord Duncan*, and *Grand Cairo*; 4. Mr. Gair, *Surpass Catafalque*; 5. Mr. Jeffrey, *Waterloo*; 6. Mr. Draper, *Walker's Coronation*.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. Mr. Draper, *Polyphemus*; 2. Mr. Gair, *Albion*; 3. and 4. Mr. Jeffrey, *Albion*; 5. Mr. Gair, *Platoff*; 6. Mr. Jeffrey, *Grand Cairo*.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. Draper, *Grotius*; 2. Mr. Jeffrey, *Hepworth's Queen of the North*; 3. Mr. Draper, *Reid's Prince Albert*; 4. Mr. Jeffrey, *Baguet Noir*; 5. Mr. Draper, *La Proserpine*; 6. Mr. Gair, *Governor des Indes*.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, and 2. Mr. Jeffrey, *La Belle Narenne* and *Diana Brun*; 3, and 4. Mr. Draper, *Prince Ellie* and *Reine des Amazones*; 5. and 6. Mr. Gair, *Prince Ellie* and *La Belle Narenne*.

*Feathered Roses*.—1, 2, and 3. Mr. Draper, for *Reid's Highland Mary*, *Lady Crewe*, and *Reid's 39*; 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Jeffrey, for *Reid's 39*, *Heroine*, and *Highland Mary*.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, 2, and 3. Mr. Draper, for *La Vandyccken*, *Ceres a belle Forme*, and *Aglala*; 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Jeffrey, for *Sans Eagle*, *La Vandyccken*, and *Catalani*.



## Part II.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

## THE YELLOW PICOTEE.

BY DR. HORNER, HULL.

LET florists suffer the word of exhortation from one who, though he has relinquished the active cultivation of flowers, yet feels an equal interest in the pursuit, and in marking its progress.

That florists have kept pace with the general spirit of improvement, so characteristic of the age in which we live, must, of right, be accorded to them; but, that they have done well in all things, the neglect of that flower which forms the subject of this communication, forbids the affirmative. For it is indeed extraordinary, that, amidst all the acknowledged scarcity of new kinds of florists' flowers, and the search and straining after novelty and improvement, the yellow picotee should yet be allowed to remain, with all its imperfections on its head, in comparative neglect and obscurity;—yea, and even to be discarded by some cultivators, because of its many, although remediable, defects!

Let it be hoped, however, that, reflecting on these things, florists may now feel the spirit stir within them, to amend and to overcome the shortcomings of nature in this flower; and, by well directed arts of cultivation, to blot out its imperfections.

How great, constant, and persevering the efforts, that for above twenty years, have been directed to the improvement of the white-ground picotee; and how complete has necessarily been the success of such endeavour! So nearly, indeed, has perfection been attained in its form and limited colour, that the circle for further improvement is narrowed to the

almost extreme point: so that, although the new sorts that are yearly ushered in, present something of advancement it is true, yet they exhibit but little of difference, and still less of distinction.

I would applaud the attention which has been bestowed on this fine flower, and which has raised it from its once serrated, pounced, and striped state, to its present faultless condition. This ought florists to have done, but they ought not to have left the other undone: for in what, it may well be inquired, does the yellow picotee differ in comparison with its fellow, the white one?

“ Write them together, it's as fair a name;  
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well ! ”

Nay, in truth, it possesses attractions and properties which must be acknowledged to be superior to its congener.

Thus, it evinces a much greater variety in the colour of its edging; for there are already purple of every hue, red, scarlet, rose, crimson, chocolate, &c. Admitting also of heavy as well as light lacing. It possesses, moreover, in its yellow ground, the capability of every shade, from primrose to deep yellow: whilst there are, furthermore, plain yellow varieties, or such as are without lacing; and which constitute of themselves a most beautiful and admired class of flowers. Hence, does the yellow picotee present altogether an amount of contrast, variety, combination, and singleness of colour, which, in all fairness, entitles it to be esteemed the most lovely, striking, and beautiful of its tribe. Whilst the common picotee admits but of one ground colour, that of white; its edging being purple, rose, or red.

Mr. Hogg, who first introduced the yellow picotee, and with whom it was ever an especial favourite, prognosticated that one day, when brought to perfection by the labours of florists, it would be the most esteemed of its class; and it must be conceded, that with all admirers of flowers, this is, indeed, ever considered the most attractive. The fairer sex espe-

cially, with their instinctive love and appreciation of what is really most admirable and beautiful in nature, ever award it chiefest praise and soft preference.

Yet in what a comparatively limited degree have these expectations been realised. Plentiful indeed the beauties and riches of this *yellow* harvest, but how few the labourers! and how would Mr. Hogg have lamented the lack of spirit and of perseverance of those latter-day florists who shrink from encountering its striped edging, and flee with alarm from its notched petal! for still is the yellow picotee neglected, and the cause re-echoed, "we grow it not, because of its imperfections."

An inviting and honorable path, therefore, now lies open to any one who will give his attention to the perfecting of this flower; and the comparison between the latest and the earlier varieties will show how attainable is improvement. Let but a clear, deep yellow ground, with a fine and distinct lacing,—or a self yellow, bright, deep, and clear in colour, be obtained, and of necessity, such a flower would command the admiration and the adoption of all; and no longer, as in the south, be discarded from public exhibitions. In the more northern counties, a taste for the yellow picotee still lingers, and many there be that lament the want of good sorts. There is demand, indeed, but no supply; an anomaly which no other trade or pursuit presents.

Because then, of the countless combinations and diversity, both in the ground colour and the lacing, of which it is capable,—because of all its natural beauties and loveliness as a flower—and especially be it added, because of its yet existing imperfections, let the effort, too long delayed, be in earnest commenced, to raise this flower to its true position—the chiefest of the dianthus class; and to constitute it the most perfect, as it is the most beautiful and attractive.

It is not without much confidence of success in the appeal, that I now urge the high claims of the yellow

picotee ; and although it may be supposed by some, that I have overstated its present imperfections and defects, I feel assured, that florists have as yet, but altogether inadequate conceptions of its attainable beauties. Let us endeavour but to realize the colours, and the combinations and contrast of colours, which I have so imperfectly depicted, and we have the portraiture of a flower which outvies in variety, richness, softness, and grandeur, not only the white picotee, but even the bolder attractions of the carnation itself. Between a clear deep yellow and the pale primrose, the diversity of shades are innumerable ; and as each difference of colour would necessarily constitute a variety, the class of plain yellows alone would be very extensive ; but when to this is added the diversified edging, or lacing, as before enumerated, the varieties or sorts of the yellow picotee scarcely admit of definition. How inexplicable, therefore, it is, that a flower so rich in promise and capabilities, should so long have been neglected by florists. The time, however, I trust, has now come, when it will no longer remain the opprobrium, the reproach, of floriculture.

*Hull, October 3.*



### ROOT-PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

I AM quite sure, that by adopting a judicious method of shortening the roots of trees, a stop may be put to over-luxuriant growth, and a much greater quantity of fruit obtained. As this is of the utmost importance to your readers, I shall offer a few remarks, which I trust will be of service ; premising, that having tested their truth by actual experiment, I am certain that they may be acted on with safety.

In the case of orchard trees, I have known sorts, the Bess Pool, for instance (than which a better apple does not exist), when growing most luxuriantly, and at ten or fifteen years, having made handsome and

beautiful trees, to be remorselessly cut down, because they bore no fruit. Had the owner been aware of the remedial measures in his own power, so Gothlike an act would not have been performed. In a case of this kind, I would recommend a circle to be made round the tree, throwing out the soil to the depth of at least three feet. This trench must be four feet from the bole or stem. In this operation, many large roots will be met with; these must be cut through, and the ragged parts smoothed with a sharp knife. The earth round the stem should then be well forked up, some good vegetable soil put in the trench, the surface top-dressed with good rotten dung, and I will warrant these trees to become productive. The early part of the present month is a good time to perform the operation; and those of your readers who have got trees of this description, will do well to operate upon them, and report progress to you, for the benefit of others.

Young trees—for instance, bushes of pears, apples, &c. may be kept to a given size with great certainty. Winter pruning is perfectly useless, if the roots are not interfered with; but if regularly root-pruned, whenever the branches assume a luxuriant tendency, it is astonishing what a number of trees may be grown in a given space. In proof of this, I will quote, in conclusion, a remark of Mr. Rivers, on visiting Malines, in Belgium. What is done there may be done here; and I see no reason why a garden that requires shelter should not have a row of pyramidal fruit trees planted about three yards asunder. They would have a beautiful effect, and be amply remunerative. Mr. R. says, "I may here mention, merely to show how superiorly the Belgians and French manage their fruit trees, in the open quarters, that two small gardens here, not more than one rood each, contained some hundreds of pyramidal pears, plums, and apples, nearly all perfect specimens," *and covered with fruit!*

H. S. M.

## THE VIRGIN'S BOWER, OR CLEMATIS.

BY THE EDITOR.

OUR next hardy, climbing, flowering plant, after the honeysuckle, is the clematis. We shall tell our readers a little about the sorts we know, and leave information of those we have not seen, to be given by others, more able to describe them. At all events, we think that those hereafter enumerated, are some of the best in cultivation. As far back as the time when we first paid any attention to plants, the Traveller's Joy was an object of our especial notice. It was common then, in the hedges about Westbourn, near Chichester, in Sussex, and amongst us school lads was called "Peth Vine." This variety is a strong and robust climber. We have one now in front of our house, which has taken possession of a sycamore tree, and during summer, covers its summit with abundance of white flowers, succeeded by the scarcely less beautiful feathery crowns formed by the appendages to its seeds. The naked stems hang in festoons round the trunk of the tree, and look like ropes. But this sort we would not recommend for general cultivation, and will confine ourselves to those adapted to the *veranda*, the *cottage wall*, the *strong larch stake*, and the *trellis*. First and foremost then, is

*The Clematis Azurea*.—A most beautiful variety, producing its large violet flowers in very great profusion. It is of comparatively recent introduction, and no one who loves a beautiful climbing plant, will be long without it, when once he has seen it in its glory. It is hardy too, and easily cultivated. We wish it were as easily attainable.

*The Single Blue Virgin's Bower*. (*Clematis vitacella*).—Pretty easily raised from seed, which produces all shades, from dingy dark blue to pale blue.

But there is a variety raised from this, which is of great merit, and far eclipses the species above-named. It is known to nurserymen as

*The Large-flowering Purple Clematis*.—It certainly is not so delicately beautiful as *Clematis azurea*, but its flowers are large, and clear dark purple. We have seen it trained to a

wall, with thousands of its expanded flowers, and as we cast an upward glance, with our face close to the plant, they looked, as the sun's rays shone above them, like myriads of pieces of purple glass. It is a robust and hardy variety, worthy of a place wherever a corner of a house has to be covered, or any suitable situation offers.

A fit companion to the above, is

*Clematis Hybrida, or Hendersonii*.—Raised, we believe, by Messrs. Henderson, Pineapple-place, London. The flowers of this interesting and distinct variety are borne on long erect footstalks, are strictly campanulate, and of a very deep purple; they assimilate to the *Atrogenes*, and are beautiful in the extreme.

As a contrast, we next notice

*The Mountain Virgin's Bower*. (*Clematis montana*.)—This is very rapid in its growth, the foliage of lighter green than any of the preceding, bearing a profusion of white flowers, each about the size of the single white wood anemone, to which they have considerable similarity. It is a desirable sort.

We have heard of a larger flowered variety, *Clematis montana major*, mentioned as growing in some of the Devonshire nurseries. If such is the case, we should be glad to hear of it, from some of our readers and correspondents in that quarter.

*The Double Blue Virgin's Bower*. (*Clematis vitacella pleno*.)—A good climbing plant, blooming till late in the autumn. When well established, it makes most vigorous shoots, and speedily covers a great extent of trellis. The flowers are dark blue, and composed of many petals. A very desirable variety.

*The Sweet-scented Virgin's Bower*. (*Clematis flammula*.)—A great favourite. Though the flowers individually are small, still, being produced in immense numbers, in the aggregate they make a great show; they are white, and continue long in season. The plant grows strong and thick; it is, therefore, good for shelter, or for covering naked walls, palings, &c. Though not so powerful in its scent as many of the honey-suckles, it is much in request, and, intermingled with those plants, makes an excellent cover for arbours, &c.

*Siebold's Virgin's Bower*. (*Clematis Sieboldii*)—This beautiful Japanese clematis was introduced, amongst great numbers of other fine plants, by Dr. Siebold. The flowers are large and white, with purple rays or stamens, calling to remembrance the passion flower. It is hardy, and a most interesting climbing plant.

We do not know how far Japan may be accessible to Europeans, but it is pretty evident that a medical man, fond of plants and botany, would reap a rich harvest in that beautiful country. Dr. Siebold has given us a sample of what we may expect, whenever the jealousies of the natives can be overcome. A collector skilled in "the maladies which flesh is heir to," would, doubtless, have a far better chance than any other.

We shall have to refer to other varieties that we have flowered, as well as some honeysuckles, in a future number.

## DESCRIPTIVE NOTES OF GREY-EDGED AURICULAS.

BY MR. JAMES LIGHTBODY, FLORIST, FALKIRK.

*Beeston's Fair Flora*.—This variety was raised by Mr. Beeston, of Burnley, and let out in 1845. It is rather a shy grower, but a well proportioned flower, having a good tube and paste; the ground is a rich violet; the pips are quite small enough; it has a tendency to show a crack, or rather indentation, across the paste, and the margin of the pip sometimes inclines to reflex.

*Cheetham's Lancashire Hero*.—Raised by Mr. Robt. Lancashire, of Middleton, and let out by Mr. Cheetham, of Rochdale. It has a round well coloured tube, with dense paste, slightly deficient in purity, and across the paste runs a crack, such as I have described in *Fair Flora*; the ground colour is black, evenly laid on, but narrow enough to correspond with the size of the pip; the pip is round, and of capital substance; a little more farina on the outer margin would improve it, as this, like some other varieties, approaches the green-edged class at times. The interior pips frequently come inferior in quality, having more the appearance of belonging to *Kenyon's Bingleader*; they should be carefully thinned out. I would rather have five or seven perfect pips, than a dozen otherwise. This variety does not make a large plant; it is late in coming into bloom, and throws its pips well out from the stock. With all its defects, it has merits to recommend it to the most fastidious critic.

*Dickson's Prince Albert*.—This was raised by Mr. James Dickson, of Acre-lane, Brixton. The tube is round, and pale enough in colour; paste fine, and dense, forming a complete circle; the ground of a reddish brown, also circular; at times, a



break occurs in the ground, or rather a lighter shade is perceptible; the pip is round and flat; the interior pips are sometimes hard to open, but in general, I recommend all interior pips which are coming crowded, to be carefully removed altogether. This is one of the most correctly proportioned varieties we have. I may add, that it is said to come sometimes in the green-edged class.

*Fletcher's Ne plus ultra*.—A very large flower, unsteady in its general character, but when in its best state, perhaps the finest variety we have. The tube is round and well coloured; fine paste, and ground colour black. When in an inferior state, the ground has streaks of a reddish colour intermixed.

*Fletcher's Mary Ann*.—Some of my friends bloom this variety in fine style. The ground colour dark brown; pip large and round, slightly cupped; paste fine. Its only fault is the tube, which is rather small, and having the thrum too much sunk.

*Grime's Privateer*.—This is an old variety, yet a favourite. This season it came very fine. The tube is well coloured, and tolerably round; the paste fine, and ground colour a rich dark brown.

*Headley's Stapleford Hero*.—Raised by Richard Headly, Esq. of Stapleford, Cambridge. The tube is round, and bright colour; the paste dense, and remarkable for purity; the ground dark and circular. Its only fault is the pip being slightly angular on the margin, or starry. The outer margin of the pip is well powdered with farina, or pounce, which is a property wanting in many of our most esteemed varieties. The plant is of robust habit, and throws a large truss.

*Kent's Queen Victoria*.—A round tube, quite large enough, the ground even, of a dark brown, pip round and flat. This is a very distinct and pretty variety.

*Lightbody's Candidate*.—A strong grower, and carries a large truss; the tube is well coloured, paste fine, ground colour a rich brown, but rather broad for the width of margin. It is a very showy variety.

*Oliver's Lovely Ann*.—This is sometimes in the green-edged class. The tube is good; paste dense, but deficient in quality; ground colour a light purple, generally narrow, in comparison with the margin; pip large, flat, and tolerably round.

*Smith's Britannia*.—A good tube; paste starry, although fine in quality; ground colour a bright violet, well proportioned. This is a very showy variety. The foot-stalks are rather short, which gives the pips a crowded appearance on the truss.

*Sykes's Complete*.—A good tube, thrum rather depressed, ground colour dark and even, pip round. This variety is very late in blooming, and from the thickness of its pips, requires heat to expand them freely. It is very neat and distinct. I have bloomed it and Kenyon's Ringleader in fine style, by placing them under a hand-glass, in the hottest part of the garden

(of course, giving a little air), and covering with dark coloured cloth, for a shade.

*Waterhouse's Conqueror of Europe*.—A round and good coloured tube, paste fine, dark ground colour, pips large, flat, and pointed. It seldom occurs that you get two pips with the same proportions of colour. It throws a large truss, and its general habit is unsteady.

*Willmer's 'Squire Chillman'*.—Rather large tube, and slightly deficient of thrum; the ground is regular, broad, and a dark brown; paste fine; round pip, inclined to fold back. The margin would be improved, if it had more farina.

## AMATOR FLORUM'S REPLY TO MESSRS. NEWHALL AND LIGHTBODY'S OBSERVATIONS ON THE HIGH PRICE OF SEEDLING FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

I SHALL not attempt to contravene the admitted maxim, "that a man may do what he likes with his own;" and in reply to Mr. Lightbody, I beg to observe, that the spirit of my article in the February number of the *Midland Florist*, still remains unimpeached. I again assert, that half-a-guinea for a pair of piuks, and fifty shillings for a pair of carnations or picotees, is an enormous price; and, in my humble opinion, the explanation as to the smallness of the stock of *Laura pink*, and *Thomas Hewlett carnation*, and the urgent requests of certain parties for them, affords no grounds, in extenuation of the immoderate prices the raisers of those flowers had placed upon them, particularly as they were the sole possessors of the stock. Could they not have parted with a portion, under very stringent stipulations? If the parties had refused to accede to those stipulations, then the stock of each flower ought to have been withheld till another year. After supplying the pressing and urgent applications of their friends, I presume there was no plausible pretext for publicly offering the remainder of the stock at the very high prices at which they have done; unless they were of opinion,

"That the value of a thing  
Is just so much as it will bring."

In reply to Mr. Newhall:—Without entering into any argument as to the “age of cheapness,” I perceive he acknowledges, to a certain extent, that my observations are not ill-founded; but I am at a loss to imagine where he discovered the term “competition,” as applied to the price of florists’ flowers; for it is obvious, “that an extraordinary demand cannot increase the supply a single plant:” and I fully admit that the raiser of a flower has an undoubted right to affix what price he chooses, however extravagant, to his new productions; but the drift of my observations was to the effect that a satisfactory understanding might be arrived at, between cultivators generally, as to the possibility of a moderate price being adopted, such an one, however, as would compensate for skill, trouble, and outlay, in propagating and wintering the stock, without having recourse to an exorbitant sum.

I am well aware that some varieties of the *Dianthus caryophyllus* are more free growers than others; and when a variety is originated which proves deficient in this point, an exception must, and ought to be made in its price; and such is the case with reference to one of the two particular flowers instanced by Mr. Newhall; but he cannot intend to infer from such a circumstance, that it is reasonable to submit to the caprice of any florist, who may please to demand an unlimited sum for his productions. I beg to observe, that Mr. Newhall has fallen into an error as to the time when *Flora’s Garland* and *Wilson’s Harriet* were originally sent out, which was not simultaneously, for the former was in cultivation long ere the latter was raised from seed.

H.

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No garden ought to be without a plant of *Shepardii argentea*. In June or July, it will scent a large garden with its fragrance. It has also a diversified appearance, is a shrub about four to six feet high, and bears berries, though they have not ripened with me.—F.F.

## Part II.

NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS,  
PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.

## FRUITS.

THE STANWICK NECTARINE.—This is a very extraordinary fruit: our most highly flavoured varieties are said to sink into insignificance, when brought into competition with it. The editor of the *Gardener's Chronicle* asserts, that it stands amongst nectarines where the finest Greengage stands amongst plums. It is about the size of Elrouge; "the skin pale, like that of the White Nectarine, when shaded, but of a violet tinge next the sun; the flesh is white, exceedingly tender, juicy, rich, and sugary, without the slightest trace of prussic acid; the kernel of the stone is *sweet like a nut*." The above description was given by Mr. Thompson, in the *Journal of the Horticultural Society*; but this falls short of its real excellence, as the fruit thus described had been damaged by carriage. This year, a liberal supply was sent by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, which was tasted by many of the best judges of fruit in the country, and one and all declared it was the most delicious nectarine they ever ate. The plants are entirely in the possession of the Duke of Northumberland, who has ordered them to be sold, and the proceeds given to the *Gardeners' Benevolent Institution*. For this reason, we hope there will be strong competition for them. We may add here, that Mr. Baker, formerly her Majesty's vice-consul at Aleppo, gave the stones, which were brought from Syria, to the Right Hon. Lord Prudhoe, who raised plants from them, in his garden, at Stanwick Park, whence its name.

**MYATT'S MAMMOTH STRAWBERRY.**—Those who are fond of large fruit will esteem this variety. It is really a mouthful. The flavour, however, is not so fine as some other sorts.



## FLORISTS' FLOWERS.

**NEILSON'S MAGNIFICENT, PANSY.**—Ground colour rich rose, surrounded by dark claret, with a delicate narrow edge of white round the three lower petals. The edges are smooth and the form good. This, we presume, will be the progenitor of a new class of these pretty flowers.

**BUNN'S EARL OF DARTMOUTH, TULIP.**—This fine variety is being sold out this season. It was raised from seed by Mr. Samuel Bunn, of West Bromwich, and is a fourth row flower, with good cup, deeply feathered with dark brown, on a yellow ground.

## NEW PICOTEES,

OF FINE CHARACTER, INDEPENDENT OF THOSE PREVIOUSLY NAMED.

[We are indebted to the *Florist* for some of the descriptions.]

**Juno and Witch** (Rev. E. Matthews).—Both excellent light-edged purple.

**Miss Turner and England's Queen** (Barringer), are heavy-edged reds, and have been shown in very fine style this season.

**Jenny Lind** (Ely).—A very pure heavily-edged purple. Its greatest drawback is, that it is rather small, but when reduced to a single bud, this is in a great measure obviated, and it will take a first-rater to beat it.

**Juliet** (May).—Light-edged purple. Extra fine, stout in petal, and beautiful in form.

**Jessica** (May).—Heavy-edged purple. Very good.

**Gem** (Youell).—This we have grown in first-rate style this season. It is, or nearly, No. 1.

**Regina** (Gatliff).—Heavy-edged violet purple. A very pretty variety.

**Countess Spencer** (Holliday).—Also heavy purple edged. Very good.

## ROSES.

*Amiral Tourville*.—A very beautiful deep crimson hybrid perpetual, of fine form, and a good show flower.

*Cymedor*.—This is singular, having the beautiful colour peculiar to the scarlet Brompton stock. A very fine rose.

*Sully*.—A Bourbon rose, of fine form, and very attractive. The colour is deep purple.

*Vicomtesse de Cazes*.—A splendid yellow tea-scented Chinese rose. The colour is bright, and we doubt not it will be a great favourite.

*La Favourite*.—Pale blush damask perpetual rose, very prettily shaded with buff, and of excellent shape.

*La Fontaine*.—A very bright crimson hybrid China rose, excellent in shape, and a good show flower.

## HARDY TREES AND SHRUBS.

**BUXUS CAUCASICA.** (*The Caucasian Box Tree*).—A small evergreen tree, of drooping habit, adapted for shady situations.

**CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS VARIEGATA.** (*The Variegated Nettle Tree*).—We recollect a very large tree of the species, at Priory, near St. Helens, in the Isle of Wight. This is a variegated variety, and forms a very interesting low tree.

**DAPHNE PONTICA VARIEGATA.** (*The Variegated Sweet-scented Daphne, or Wood Laurel*).—An evergreen shrub, with greenish yellow flowers, remarkable for their fragrance. It is adapted for shady situations, the margins of shrubberies, &c. The leaves are distinctly striped with white.

**HEDERA TAURICA.** (*The Taurian Ivy*).—This is a singularly neat evergreen climber, with very small leaves.

**TAXUS DOVASTONIANA.** (*The Dovaston Yew*).—This is peculiar from its drooping habit, and is easily distinguishable from the rigid and stiff growth of other yews.

**THUJA AUREA.** (*The Golden or Yellow-branched Arborvitæ.*)—This is a variety that as yet we do not much admire. Its high price is no recommendation to us. It looks sickly and unhealthy. It is rather erect in habit, and as a variety may please some persons, but we do not imagine it will be a general favourite.

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## HALF HARDY PLANTS,

### ADAPTED FOR BEDDING.

**THE OPPOSITE-LEAVED SAGE.** (*Salvia oppositifolia.*)—A dwarf, deep scarlet flowering plant. It blooms most abundantly, and is very pretty.

**THE LARGE-FLOWERING SKULL CAP.** (*Scutellaria macrantha.*)—The flowers of this interesting plant are dark purple; the habit is good, attaining the height of twelve to fourteen inches.

**WYMESS'S PRINCESS ALICE, VERBENA.**—This is a novel and very beautiful variety. The colour is white, with a distinct rosy spot on each division of the corolla. It forms a large truss of well-shaped flowers.

**BAKER'S CARDINAL, VERBENA.**—A very beautiful scarlet, with the habit of the old Melindres. The flowers are large, and of dazzling brilliancy.

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## HARDY PERENNIAL HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

**THE YELLOW VIOLET.** (*Viola lutea.*)—This is a beautiful plant, of compact growth, with very dark green foliage, the bright yellow flowers standing well above it. It is very hardy, and will make an excellent border plant.

## VEGETABLE.

In the kitchen garden of the Horticultural Society, a small *red-fruited* garden bean has been introduced, from M. Vilmorin, of Paris. It does not exceed twelve inches in height; the pods are proportionably short, being three inches in length, but are produced very thickly on the stalk. The bean itself is much larger than the Mazagan.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.



## HINTS ON THE CULTIVATION OF GLADIOLI, IXIAS, SPARAXIS, AND OTHER CAPE BULBS, ETC. IN THE OPEN AIR.

BY MR. B. SAUNDERS, JERSEY.

IN September, or at the latest, in October, begin to prepare your beds or borders, by well digging them a spade deep, burying a stratum of good rotten dung at the bottom; about two barrowsful will suffice for a bed thirty feet long by four feet wide.

The soil, in general, must be a good friable sandy loam, and ought to be well broken in digging; and so rounded on the tops as to allow the heavy rains to escape during the winter months. As soon as the ground is thus prepared and regularly raked, begin to plant the bulbs in clumps or rows across the bed, from two and a half to four inches deep, taking care to cover them one inch deep with sand, previous to covering with mould.

After the beds are thus planted, rake and dress the ground well, and thus the work is completed until the spring, observing to keep it free from weeds and stirring it occasionally with a small fork, which greatly accelerates their growth. The different varie-



ties flower in succession from the middle of May to the end of June, and large beds of them produce most beautiful effect.

By thus early planting, they get well established and will resist a very hard frost, as a proof of which, during the severe frosts of 1837-38 and 1840-41, *ixias*, *sparaxis*, *tritonias*, &c., were preserved by a covering of two inches of dry sand spread over the surface of the beds.—*Gardener's Magazine*, v. xvii. p. 15.

Where the climate is considered too severe, it would be advisable to plant the bulbs in pots, putting one *gladiolus* to three *sparaxis*, *ixias*, *babianas*, *tritonias*, &c., in a three-inch pot, and plunging them in old tan, ashes, or sand, under the protection of a frame, until the month of April, when they might be turned out in the open borders.

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## POTATOES.

**FLOUR BALL.**—This appears to be a very prolific potato. I planted them whole, about twenty inches apart—some twenty-four inches. Half were planted in the garden, in rich compost, in a dry airy spot; the remainder in an adjoining field, on wood-ashes only, without any dung, but covered thick with the ashes; and these have proved much the best crop. The first are not free from disease, which has attacked the largest potatoes. There is very little of it in the second parcel.

**CHALMORE KIDNEY.**—This is also a prolific sort, and the roots are very heavy in proportion to their size. They bore a great deal of seed, and it would probably have been better to have plucked off the blossoms. My crop was greatly diseased; three out of four being affected. They were later than the Flour Ball.

**FLAVOUR OF POTATOES.**—The Ash-leaved Kidney, Haigh's Seedling, and the Irish Cup, are the best flavoured potatoes I am acquainted with. If any of your readers will point out which they consider the best, I shall feel obliged.

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**IMPREGNATING THE POLYANTHUS.**—I am right glad that you have commenced a series of articles on hybridizing; and I anticipate, in a future number, your views respecting the polyanthus. In the absence of any practical information, during the last season, I have hit upon the following expedient:—Having selected my bloom, as soon as it was expanded, I cut the tube across, between the anthers and the stigma; thus leaving the latter in the protection of the tube, allowing free access for the operation, and effectually preventing self-impregnation. If there is a better method, I shall be glad of information.—DERA.

**TIGRIDIA PANONIA AND CONCHIFLORA.** (*The Tiger Flower.*)—My system of growing these plants is somewhat different from that often practised, and has the advantage of saving time and frame room. About the second week in April, I part the bulbs, and plant the largest, at about six inches apart each way, in the bed I wish them to flower in. I plant the bulbs in holes made with a dibble, leaving the top of the bulb about two inches below the surface. When I have planted the whole bed, I fill up the holes with some very light peaty soil. They are then left to nature, and she always takes great care of them, for I never have any bulbs fail. As the season advances, they make their appearance above ground, and come up stronger than when they are potted, and will be in flower almost as soon—in fact, I never could find the difference between the potted ones and those planted out, as to earliness of flowering, worth a quarter of the trouble of potting, while those planted

out at once invariably flower much stronger. On the approach of autumnal frosts, I put some light litter amongst them, about six inches thick ; this keeps the stems from being frozen too low down. By the first or second week in November, I take them out of the ground, and cut the tops off about an inch above the top of the bulbs. I then store them in an old box, thus:—I lay some very dry mould over the bottom, and then place a layer of bulbs, then some more mould, and another layer of bulbs, and so on till the box is filled, when I place it under the greenhouse stage, on some pots or bricks. About six weeks afterwards, I turn them out, take off any wet or rotten stems, &c., they may have about them, and replace them in the box, with very dry mould, as before. By this means, I hardly ever lose any bulbs, and always secure plenty of strong flowering ones, with very little trouble.—H.

Every possessor of a garden should plant a root of *Allium scaveolens*. It is the most fragrant herbaceous plant I know ; and if the flower stems are cut off as they decay, it will bloom from May to December, besides being a good bee flower.—F.F.

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.



THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.—The illustrations are, *Mitraria coccinea* (Scarlet-flowered Mitraria), and the *Schizanthus retusus albus*. Both these plants are pretty. The latter is most adapted for the greenhouse ; but the former is a beautiful shrubby climbing plant, bearing its tubular scarlet flowers on long footstalks. It is easily cultivated, and blooms profusely. The articles are of general interest, consisting principally of Notes on New Plants, Cultivation of Ferns, Double Stocks, &c.

THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL is embellished with a coloured plate of *Calystegia pubescens*. This singular plant bears double flowers, and belongs to the family of *bindweeds*, a most notorious family, certainly. The editor recommends it to be planted in pots, and there trained to trellises; and he suggests the probability of its being admirably adapted for growing on balconies, where earth is usually scarce, and where the situation is generally very hot. So far well; but we advise our readers to keep it there; for if once established in their gardens, they will have some difficulty in eradicating it—as much as with the Large Bindweed, with white flowers, which is so great a pest to most people; and they will find, to their cost, that they have not “*an old friend with a new face*,” but “*an old enemy with a double one*.” There are several very useful papers. One on shrubs for forcing; and as many of our readers have greenhouses, the names of these things may be of some service to them. We note the following:—

*Deutzia scaber*. (The Rough-leaved Deutzia.)—This is very pretty in the garden, and is a most interesting shrub. We have seen plants two feet high, which had been potted in the autumn, and introduced to the greenhouse. In spring, they make most beautiful objects, literally covered with spikes of small bell-shaped flowers.

The editor also recommends the

*Deutzia staminea*, a plant newly introduced from the north of India. The flowers are also white and bell-shaped, but have the very agreeable recommendation of being exquisitely fragrant.

*Andromeda florabunda*.—An evergreen, bearing large spikes of white flowers. It is well adapted for greenhouse treatment.

*Forsythia viridissima*.—This is a most excellent shrub. It will expand its blossoms in a temperature of fifty-five degrees. The branches are clothed with large handsome yellow flowers.

*Chimonanthus fragrans*.—A shrub possessing flowers which expand early, and are remarkable for their extraordinary sweetness.

*Wiegela rosea*.—A very beautiful hardy plant, but must not be forced too quickly. The temperature of a greenhouse, or conservatory, brings it out beautifully; but if placed in a stronger heat, *leaves only are produced*.

*Jasminum nudiflorum* is also stated to be a good addition to our winter plants. This we have flowered very prettily; its yellow flowers being produced in great profusion, after the leaves have fallen off, and before the new ones make their appearance.

We are much obliged to the *Florist's Journal* for the opportunity of making the above extract. Our readers must bear in mind that the above plants are all perfectly hardy; and therefore, if the artizan has two of each, he can place one in a pot, and by putting it or them in his flued frame or greenhouse, he will be enabled to enjoy their beauty and fragrance for a long period.

THE BOTANIC GARDEN has nice figures of the *Hemerocalis rutila* (The Bright Day Lily), a hardy herbaceous perennial, with deep yellow erect flowers; the neat little rock plant, *Silene saxifraga* (The Saxifrage Catchfly); the *Cerasus chamæcerasus* (The Ground Cherry Tree); and the *Armenia cephalotes* (The Large-headed Thrift). The last is rather tender in damp cold situations. The pear figured is the *Citron des Carmes*, and old variety, very apt to crack, on standard trees, though it bears tolerably well. It is, however, excellent on a wall.

THE FLORIST.—The embellishments are two new phloxes, *Cælestis* and *Nitens*. The former is a blue shrubby variety; the latter white, with a distinct pink centre. We are glad to find the editor will hardly believe the truth of the case tried in the Leicester borough court. He is indignant, and not so squeamish as we were; for he not only gives the antifloral recorder's name, but he asserts, that if he did give such a verdict, it would serve him right to strip his wig and gown, and turn him out of court for ever; and concludes with, "Flowers in the poor man's garden, say we." With which every lover of progression and amelioration, we are sure, will coincide. From Mr. Rivers's article on moss roses, we learn

that advances are making in the production of perpetual moss roses. This would indeed be a boon to floriculture, could we get a variety equal to our old favourite, "The Common Moss," which would give us blooms till October. The following description is of the

*Perpetual Red Moss*, or *Mauget's Mousseuse Perpetuelle*, so called from its being raised by a grower, at Orleans, of the name of Mauget. It is a pretty variety, of very dwarf habit, and produces early in summer abundance of flowers, of a delicate rosy crimson. In autumn, they are not quite so deep in colour. They are very double, elegantly shaped, and highly fragrant. Nearly every shoot made by the plants in August and September gives a cluster of flowers. The habit of the plant is rather delicate, and it seems to require a rich, moist, fertile soil.

Again,

*The Crimson Perpetual Moss*, or *General Drouet*, a variety raised from seed at Angers, is a far more vigorous-growing sort, with flowers not quite double, of the most brilliant crimson, slightly tinted with purple. This variety puts out very vigorous shoots, and is not quite so prolific in flowers, during the autumn, as the preceding. Still it blooms very freely in September, and as it bears seed freely, it will probably be the parent of some valuable varieties.

A list of hyacinths, by Mr. J. Slater, florist, Cheetam-hill, Manchester, is also given; with papers on cyclamens, hollyhocks, chrysanthemums, fountains, &c. &c.

THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE, amongst a variety of useful papers, has the following:—Choice Roses, with their several Properties. The Acacia, and its Culture. Ornamental Flower Stands, &c. With an article or two not very complimentary either to dealers in flowers (page 451), or sellers of potatoes (page 475). Amongst observations likely to interest our readers, is one on budding several varieties of roses on one plant. The common Chinese is instanced as a good stock. If a plant cover a great part of a veranda or trellis, roses of different colours may be inserted, thus giving a pleasing variety; but at the

same time it is advised to select those sorts which are of moderate growth. For instance, Josephine Malton, a splendid creamy white rose, would do. This might be contrasted with Cramoisa superieure, a beautiful crimson. And again, *Ætna*, with its varied flowers, some blush, others crimson, and many mottled, gives a highly diversified character. Then, *Eliza Sauvage*, pale lemon, might be added; and, in fact, many others, which would increase the beauty of the plant, and the interest excited would be very great. Strong-growing sorts, the writer adds, had better be avoided. For instance, *Noisette La Marque*, which will grow ten feet in a season, would monopolize too much of the sap, to the detriment of the weaker-growing varieties.

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### Part III.

## NOTICE OF LIST.

DESCRIPTIVE LISTS OF FRUITS AND BULBS, SOLD BY  
MR. B. SAUNDERS, NURSERMAN AND FLORIST, ST.  
HELIERS, JERSEY.

WE are glad to notice all lists which afford information as to the trees or plants which they contain.

The fruits are select, and in various columns are their names, size, quality, and periods of maturity; subjects, of all others, on which purchasers are desirous of being enlightened. Amongst the apples are many foreign varieties, and many sorts highly esteemed in the midland counties. We also see a white raspberry (Saunders's *Cæsarean*) mentioned, of which we should be glad of information.

Mr. Saunders is famous for his pears, and the collection is very fine.

Attached to his list of Cape bulbs and tuberous roots, are a few hints on the cultivation of gladioli, sparaxis, and ixias, most beautiful bulbous-rooted flowers, which we notice in another place.

## QUERIES.



I have read with very great interest, and received much information from your remarks on hybridizing or cross-breeding plants, in the May and June numbers of the *Midland Florist*, which has led me to attempt to carry out the science in a few plants of my own; and if you should have space in your next number, I shall feel obliged by your giving the following queries an insertion, which may lead some one to give additional information on the subject:—1st. Is it of importance, after impregnating a flower with the pollen, or farina, to keep it perfectly still, and sheltered from wind and weather?—2nd. Is there any particular rule to assist the operator in selecting those plants which will be most likely to produce the best effect in the colours of the flowers of the plants impregnated?—*Example*: I have a very pretty *pink* geranium, and a very fine coloured Tom Thumb, *rich scarlet*, might I calculate upon realizing a mid-shade of colour, say *rich rose*, from cross-breeding the two plants? and have I any grounds to expect a *pencilled* flower from two plants whose colours are *solid*?—Trusting that these questions will not be deemed out of place, but worthy of the notice of some of your practical men, I remain, &c.

York.

JAMES WHITEHEAD.

Will you please to furnish your readers with a definition of the term "rose leaf," as applied to the petals of the pink? I have purchased several varieties which, in the catalogues, were styled "rose leaved," and had, moreover, an ex. ex. appended to them; but on their blooming, I have been much disappointed. I have grown Bunkhill's Victoria, Kerr's Harriet, Little Wonder, Hodge's Jupiter, Rose Elegans, Duke of Devonshire, Kay's Mary, Milman's Lilla, Parry's Union, Snowball, and several others, all of which were serrated. Can you give a list of smooth-edged, or rose-petalled pinks, including a few black and white, or plain varieties? My idea of a rose petal pink assimilates as much to the guard petal of the rose as it is possible to conceive. The rose is rarely seen serrated, and the sooner this defect is banished from the dianthus tribe the more gratifying it will be to a

TYRO.

I should feel much obliged if you will, in an early number of your valuable publication, give a list of hardy *evergreen* plants, suitable for covering a trellis. Also, if you will give directions for pruning perpetual roses, trained *en pyramide*: what time of year it should be done; whether the lateral shoots should be allowed to remain, and if so, how far they should be cut from the origin of the new wood. An early answer to these queries will much oblige,

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER.



I wish to make two asparagus beds, but hardly know how to go about it. Your little book is very much liked here, and is likely to be extensively useful; but we have sometimes difficulty in getting it. Still I am anxious that you should, in your next number, say what I must do. Several of my neighbours are waiting to see what directions you will give, before they begin. Your early attention will confer a favour, both on myself and them. I remain yours very truly,

*Bolton, Lancashire.*

ABEL MORRIS.

[Trench the land at least two feet deep, placing an abundant dressing of rotten manure at the bottom of the trench, and at the same time working a good quantity in with the soil that is thrown up in ridges. The whole may be levelled in March, after having been well pulverized by the winter frosts, and formed into beds, four feet wide, with paths at least thirty inches wide. In April, or earlier, if more convenient, though we like the plants to be started before planting them out, they should be taken up carefully, that the bud may not be broken out. Three small trenches, four inches deep, should be made lengthways of the beds, and the plants set in them, nine inches asunder, which will be quite thick enough. After cultivation we will talk about when the period arrives.]

EVERGREENS, TO GROW UNDER THE DRIP OF LARGE TREES.—You will indeed confer a favour on me, if you will tell me of some six or eight shrubs adapted to cover a bank on which are some tall trees. I have tried many deciduous ornamental plants, but they will not do. I shall be obliged by an answer in your next number. Yours respectfully, JAMES HARRIS.

[If our correspondent will procure the following, we think they will succeed, with common care:—*Berberis aquifolia*, the Common *Daphne*, or Spurge Laurel, the Common and Variegated *Hollies*, *Laurestinus*, Tree Box, Common Laurel, Yew, &c. The different sorts of periwinkle and ivies would run over the surface, and cover the foreground.]

R. T. M. would feel obliged to the editor of the *Midland Florist*, if he would inform him, in the next number, of the best mode of making up a bed to receive tulips; and whether a layer of loam, or old dung, at the bottom, would be advisable. R. T. M. understands the usual plan of planting the bulbs.—R. T. M. can bear testimony that your little work is very likely to confer a boon on the poor man; as it comes within the price which he can afford, and induces a taste for floriculture.

*Fairford.*

ONE OF YOUR FIRST SUBSCRIBERS.

[Tulips grow well in stout maiden or fresh loam, from a pasture field. If two or three years old, so much the better. Add one-fourth of river sand, incorporate them well, and plant in the usual way. This will keep the bulbs healthy, and the blooms clean.]

VOL. II.

2 M

**TREES FOR EXPOSED SITUATIONS.**—I have a piece of ground which I wish to cover with trees, to hide some unsightly buildings. It is, however, very much exposed to the north-east. Can you tell of some trees suitable for the purpose, which are quick growing and hardy?

[There are many trees adapted for a situation of this sort. Lime, Spanish Chestnut, Black Italian Poplar, Heart-leaved Alder, which, though flourishing in damp situations, will also grow fast in exposed places; the Larch, and Siberian Elm, a beautiful tree; the Turkey Oak will also do, and has very pretty foliage.]

Being about to commence growing carnations and picotees, you will much oblige by giving, in your next number, the best six in each class, from your own personal observation.

*Hull.*

JAMES MATTHEWSON.

[Our correspondent will find the following varieties good. There may be as good, but were we beginning, we should not wish for a *better* lot to start with:—

**SCARLET BIZARRES.**

Mr. Groom (Lightbody)  
Admiral Curzon (Easom)  
Lord Rancliffe (Holliday)  
True Briton (Hepworth)  
Hamlet (Hepworth)  
Duke of Sutherland (Elliott)

**CRIMSON BIZARRES.**

Lord Milton (Ely)  
Thomas Hewlett (Holliday)  
Robert Burns (Mansley)  
Gladiator (Slater)  
Paul Pry (Wakefield)  
William IV. (Wood)

**SCARLET FLAKES.**

Lydia (Adenbrook)  
Dido (Hollyoake)  
Brilliant (Elliott)  
Firebrand (Hardmet)  
William IV. (Wilson)  
Brilliant (Chadwick)  
Hero of Middlesex (Willmer)

**PURPLE FLAKES.**

Lord Byron (Taylor)  
'Squire Meynell (Brabbin)  
Queen of Purples (Holliday)  
Earl Spencer (Barringer)  
Beauty of Woodhouse (Mansley)  
Princess Charlotte (Turner)

**ROSE FLAKES.**

Lady Ely (Ely)  
Martha (Elliott)  
Mrs. G. Moore (Willmer)  
Lovely Ann (Ely)  
Harriet (Wilson)  
Lady Gardener (Ely)

**RED PICOTEES.**

Sebastian (May)  
King James (Headley)  
Mrs. Bevan  
Prince of Wales (Marris)  
Gem (Youell)  
Northampton Bride (Holliday)

**PURPLE PICOTEES.**

Prince Albert (Marris)  
Enchantress (Matthews)  
Princess Alice (Wood)  
Portia (May)  
Marquis of Exeter (Holliday)

**ROSE PICOTEES.**

Princess of Wales (Marris)  
Princess Royal (Willmer)  
Queen Victoria (Green)  
Proconsul (Gatliff)  
Mrs. Barnard (Barnard)  
Lady Alice Peel (Youell)]

Would you, or any of your numerous readers, be kind enough in your next number, to furnish me with the necessary information for raising the clematis? also the proper season? I have inquired of the gardeners in my own neighbourhood, and find that they do not agree at all on the subject. Attention to the above will greatly oblige a constant reader of the *Midland Florist* from the commencement.

W. B.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**J. W.**—Do not use dung and lime together. We would advise the ground to be trenched now, and lime applied. In the spring, a good dressing of night soil may be put between the ridges, which should then be levelled down and planted. Plant rhubarb now, on well manured ground. Myatt's Victoria is one of the most profitable sorts. Plant four feet asunder each way. Send a shilling's worth of postage stamps to Messrs. Bass & Brown, seedsmen, who advertise with us, and we will engage that you get both the Stone Turnip and the Red or Scarlet Beet from them. We think that the seedsman you allude to should have obtained them for you. At all events, it would be keeping his trade together.

**EVERGREENS.**—AN AMATEUR.—Evergreens make abundance of fibrous roots, which, of course, impoverish the land, by drawing support for the plant therefrom. If evergreens are thickly planted, they prevent the growth of weeds, &c.

**HELIOTROPES.**—*Voltarianum* produces large bunches of flowers, much darker than the common one; and *Triomphe de Ligne* also produces very large bunches of flowers, which are highly scented.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS, FOR NOVEMBER.

We well know that many of our readers have pits and frames; and as it often happens that they do not manage their plants very satisfactorily, we will notice a few points of cultivation which must be strictly attended to during the winter months. Do not keep the lights or door constantly shut, under a supposition that the external air will injure the plants. On the con-

trary, give air whenever the weather is fine and mild. This will harden the plants, and in a great measure prevent damp and mildew, which, when once in the frame, are not easily got rid of. Never syringe the plants during the winter months. Remove yellow leaves as they appear, and frequently stir the surface mould in the pots. When the plants require water, apply it as early in the morning as possible.

Those parties who have some of the beautiful *chrysanthemums* now introduced, will do well to thin the buds, and encourage their growth with manure water. Amongst some of the best are, *Salter's Annie*, bright lemon; *Madame Poggi*, claret; *Campesironi*, dark purple; *Queen of Gipsies*, orange brown; *Sphinx*, rosy crimson; *Prince of Wales*, yellow, tipped with red; and *Pluton*, dark brown. In the more southern counties, and in Ireland, these beautiful autumnal flowers will grow and bloom most luxuriantly in the open air. Attached and neatly trained to a low wall or trellis, they have a very splendid appearance.

*Hyacinths* must be planted this month. A first-rate compost is given by the late Hon. and Rev. Mr. Herbert, in the fourth volume of *The Transactions of the London Horticultural Society*. As we hope many of our readers will try to grow this very beautiful and interesting flower, we give it for their especial benefit. One-third coarse river sand; one-third rotten cow dung, without any straw or litter mixed with it; and one-third leaf mould. The bed is formed by removing the soil to the depth of two feet, and filling in with the above compost.

In the open air, much requires to be done; in fact, there are few garden operations which may not be performed with propriety now. Pruning of every kind. Where *standard apple trees* have made large bushy tops, full of spray or small branches, use the saw freely—(a narrow bladed one, called a pruning saw, is best)—make the tree hollow in the centre, give it *air*—allow the sun to see the inside, as well as the outside. By this plan, the fruit will be larger, better flavoured, and handsomer. Many people are indifferent about this; but we say to them, *set about it*, and we will guarantee increased produce.

*Gooseberry* and *currant trees* may be pruned. Some persons defer it to a later period, but we say *now*; for what little sap is on the move, will heal the wound. Adopt the same plan as with the *apple tree*, except they are grown *en pyramide*, which is the far better plan. If the shoots of the *currant trees* were pinched at midsummer, the buds round the lower part will be found plump and promising. The shoot may now be cut back to these buds. Those that are trained to walls should also be cut in, in the same manner.

*Strawberries* are perhaps best left alone for the present. Runners may be taken off, and planted out; but if the old leaves are left on the plant, they protect the bud, or heart, during severe weather.

*Raspberries*.—Of this favourite fruit, the Yellow Magnum Bonum is one of the best flavoured; and Cornwall's Victoria, remarkable for its beauty and productiveness, is a very desirable red. *Raspberries* are fond of highly manured land. Cut out the dead portions, and train the current year's shoots so that they may be well exposed to light and air; and by no means leave more than three canes to a stool, or root.

Transplanting of every kind may now be persevered in, whilst the weather is open. In removing trees, take care of the roots. Some people get them up as if fibres were of no consequence. Attend to root-pruning, as directed in the present number.

*Potatoes*.—The disease is yet a mystery. On dry sandy soils they appear to have escaped best. On our cold retentive land, we have suffered severely. The Flour Ball has been wonderfully productive this year; and its flavour and character, with cooks and the public generally, is unexceptionable. Do no hill *potatoes*, if it can be avoided; rather store them in a barn, well surrounded with straw. Lofts, over stables, or cow-houses, would not be bad places. The heat of the animals would keep off frost in a great degree. We pulled off the tops of one rood of Flour Balls, and left those of another rood on. Where the tops were *pulled* clean away, the *potatoes* are decidedly the best; nine-tenths of the others are rotten, and they are scarcely worth getting up.

Do not fail to plant plenty of *cabbage*. If not already done, lose no time. Store carefully any root-crops you may have: *carrots*, *parsnips*, and *Swede turnips*. These last are really a valuable vegetable, in times like these. Poor people should buy a few bushels of the farmers, and store them away, for winter consumption. They will not rot, like the white turnips, and when properly cooked, are excellent.

In the flower garden, all decayed tops of such plants as *phloxes*, *delphineums*, &c. should be cut away, and general neatness attended to. *Scarlet geraniums* may be taken up, the soil shaken away, and the plants put in pots which will just hold the roots. As they are very succulent, they will require but little water. *Florists' flowers* must be attended to. *Tulips* should be planted without delay; choosing dry weather for the operation. Get in no more *carnation layers*. If not already potted off, and in their winter quarters, defer it till spring.

Recently-planted *pinks* and *pansies* are apt to be drawn out of the soil by worms. It is a good plan to procure some lime water, and, removing their casts, pour a small quantity down their holes. This generally proves destructive to them.

*Dahlias* will be in danger, if sharp frost comes on. Therefore it will be highly necessary to earth up the stems, to prevent the buds round the crowns of the plants being damaged.

## FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.



## WAKEFIELD FLORIST SOCIETY,

AURICULA SHOW, held at the Griffin Inn, North-gate, April 24.

*Green Edge*.—1, 2, 3, and 5. J. Gill, for Oliver's Lovely Ann, Lady Ann Willibrand, Grimes's Privateer, and Highland Boy; 4. S. Hartley, Lord Brougham.

*Grey Edge*.—1, 2, 4, and 5. J. Gill, for Warris's Union, Mary Ann, Hallamshire, and Ne plus ultra; 3. S. Hartley, Conqueror of Europe.

*White Edge*.—1, 2, 3, and 4. J. Gill, for Venus, Hallamshire, Catherine, and Regulator; 5. C. Boocock, Taylor's Glory.

*Sells*.—1. Mr. Womersley, Womersley's Desdemona; 2. S. Hartley, Othello; 3, 4, and 5. J. Gill, for Squire Mundy, Flora's Flag, and Freedom.

*Alpines*.—1, 3, and 4. J. Gill, for Rosamond, Oddy's Rest, and Conspicua; 2. S. Hartley, Beauty of England; 5. C. Boocock, Rising Sun.

## POLYANTHUSES.

*Dark Ground*.—1, 3, 4, and 5. J. Gill, for Pearson's Alexander, Favourite, Seedling, and Defiance; 2. S. Hartley, Lord Ranciliffe.

*Red Ground*.—1 and 2. J. Gill, for Alexander and Seedling; 3 and 4. S. Hartley, for Errington's Fire King and Formoso; 5. A. Holmes, Seedling.

## TULIP SHOW, May 24.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1 and 6. J. Steel, for Surpass Catafalque and George IV.; 2 and 4. A. Holmes, for Firebrand and Catafalque Superior; 3. J. Cato, Magnum Bonum; 5. S. Hartley, Duc de Savoy.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1. J. Steel, Charles X.; 2. J. Cato, Lustre; 3. A. Holmes, Codrington; 4 and 5. J. Gill, for Catafalque and Prince of Orange; 6. S. Hartley, Prince Leopold.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1, 2, 3, and 5. J. Cato, for Baguet, La Belle Narene, Wolstenholme Byblæmen, and Great Premier; 4. J. Steel, Washington; 6. S. Hartley, Hugobert.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1 and 6. J. Steel, for Waller's 71 and Cleopatra; 2 and 3. J. Gill, for Duchess of Kent and Baguet; 4. C. Boocock, Euclid; 5. J. Cato, Dr. Newton.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Gill, Triumph Royal; 2. W. Whittaker, Aglala; 3 and 6. J. Cato, for Lady Crewe and Seedling; 4 and 5. A. Holmes, for Rose Constance and Rose of the Nile.

*Flamed Roses*.—1 and 2. H. Hartley, for Triumph Royal and Aglala; 3 and 4. J. Steel, for Manti Ducal and Vesta; 5. J. Cato, Lord Hill; 6. J. Gill, Chellaston Seedling.

*Sells*.—1. A. Holmes, Min d'Or; 2. H. Hartley, Golden Sovereign; 3. J. Gill, Cotherston.

*Breeder*.—J. Gill, Chellaston Breeder.

## PINK SHOW, June 26.

*Dark Lace*.—1 and 2. S. Hartley, for Jones's Huntsman and Lady Milner; 3. S. Hartley, Seedling; 4. J. Gill, Greensides; 5 and 6. H. Hartley, for Seedling and Seedling.

*Red Lace*.—1. A. Holmes, J. Sturge; 2. J. Steel, Seedling; 3 and 4. J. Gill, for Dr. Hepworth and Lady Milner; 5 and 6. S. Hartley, Prince Albert and Seedling.

*Brown Lace*.—1 and 5. J. Steel, for Seedling and Seedling; 2. A. Holmes, Miss Hannah; 3, 4, and 6. J. Gill, for Huntsman, Dr. Hepworth, and J. Sturge.

*Plains*.—1. J. Steel, Willmer's Elizabeth; 2, 3, 5, and 6. J. Gill, for Virgin Queen, Beauty of Blackburn, Kay's Mary, and Diamond; 4. S. Hartley, Seedling.

## CARNATION SHOW, July 25.

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—1 and 6. S. Hartley, Lodge's Briton and Hepworth's Brilliant; 2 and 5. J. Gill, for Ely's Jolly Dragoon and Patriarch; 3. C. Boocock, Hepworth's Leader; 4. J. Steel, Huntsman.

*Pink and Purple Bizarres*.—1, 2, and 3. J. Gill, for Paul Pry, Lord Milton, and Duke of Bedford; 4, 5, and 6. J. Steel, Wm. Caxton, Robert Burns, and Seedling.

*Purple Flakes*.—1, 2, and 6. J. Gill, for Thornton, Bonny Bess, and Premier; 3, 4, and 5. J. Steel, for John Wright, Beauty of Woodhouse, and Princess Charlotte.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1 and 6. S. Hartley, for Marquis of Granby and Madam Mara; 2 and 5. J. Gill, for Brilliant and King of Scarlets; 3. J. Steel, William IV.; 4. W. Hall, 'Squire Crowse.

*Rose Flakes*.—1, 2, and 6. J. Gill, for Ely's Lady Ely, Barrenger's Appollo, and Lovely Ann; 3. S. Hartley, Tomlin's Brisies; 4 and 5. J. Steel, for Lovely Mary and Seedling.

## PICOTEES.

*Heavy-edged Red*.—1 and 5. Ely's Mrs. Horner and Nymph of the Nore; 2, 4, and 6. J. Steel, for Duke of Wellington, Sir W. Middleton, and Sir R. Sale; 3. J. Gill, Seedling.

*Heavy-edged Purple*.—1, 2, 3, and 5. J. Gill, for Field Marshal, Nulli Secundus, Favourite, and Vanquisher; 4. J. Steele, Crask's Victoria; 6. J. Hartley, Victoria.

*Light Red-edged*.—1 and 5. J. Steele, for Seedling and Seedling; 2, 3, and 6. J. Gill, for Mrs. Horner, Seedling, and Victoria; 4. S. Hartley, Duchess of Cambridge.

*Light Purple edged*.—1 and 2. S. Hartley, for Crask's Prince Albert and Favourite; 3, 4, and 6. J. Gill, for Seedling, Mrs. Fenton, and Nottingham Hero; 5. W. Hall, Duke of Newcastle.

TODMORDEN FLORICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY,  
TULIP SHOW, June 3.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1, 3, 6, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Magnum Bonum, Sultana, Arthington's Rainbow, and Royal Gem; 2. J. Suthers, Trafalgar Royal; 4 and 5. T. Lord, Ferrand's Liberty and Gigantea.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1 and 7. J. Suthers, for Albion and Sultana; 2, 3, 4, and 5. T. Lord, Surpass Lacantique, Old Lacantique, Black Prince, and Duke of Lancaster; 6. R. W. Foster, Cato.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1, 3, 4, and 5. T. Lord, Bienfait, Napoleon, Violet a Font Noir, and Neat and Clean; 2. J. Suthers, Grotius.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1 and 3. J. Suthers, for Violet Wallers and Violet a Font Noir; 2, 4, 5, and 6. T. Lord, for Baguet, Bishop of Exeter, Bienfait, and Bloemart.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Suthers, Lady Crewe; 2, 3, and 4. T. Lord, Dolittle, Duc de Bronte, and Rose de Pierre.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, 4, 5, and 6. T. Lord, Ve-ta, Unique, Diana, and Unknown; 2 and 3. J. Suthers, Rose Guerrier and Aglaia.

*Breeders*.—1. bizarre, T. Lord, Beauty of Dovedale; 2. byblæmen, T. Lord, Unknown; 3. rose, T. Lord, Slater's Fairy Queen.

*Sciss*.—1 and 2. T. Lord, for Min d'Or and Ely's Sovereign.

**CENSORS**.—Mr. Chippendale, of Blackburn; and Mr. Giggy, of Bury.

## CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES, August 19.

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—1. Hoyles's Duke of Leeds, A. Crossley; 2, 3, 5, and 6. R. W. Foster, for Merchant's Sir Robert Peel, Hepworth's Hamlet, Easom's Admiral Curzon, and Hale's Prince Albert; 4. J. Haigh, Lodge's True Briton; 7. T. Lord, Hepworth's Leader.

*Crimson Bizarres*.—1 and 2. T. Lord, for Cartwright's Rainbow and Wakefield's Paul Pry; 3. A. Crossley, Gregory's King Alfred; 4, 5, 6, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Ely's Wm. Caxton, Duke of Bedford, Holmes's Count Paulini, and Wallis's Young Earl Grey.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1, 3, and 6. R. W. Foster, for Wilson's William IV., Wallis's Beauty of Cradley, and Wigge's Earl of Leicester; 2 and 7. A. Crossley, for Ely's Mrs. Grainger and Pearson's Madam Mara; 4 and 5. T. Lord, for Simpson's Marquis of Granby and Bottomley's Beauty of Brighthouse.

*Rose Flakes*.—1, 2, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Ely's Lady Gardiner, Colonel Lee's Jenny Lind, and Elliott's Martha; 3 and 6. A. Crossley, for Barrenger's Apollo and L. we's Marchioness of Westminster; 4. T. Lord, Ely's Lady Ely; 5. J. Haigh, Unknown.

*Purple Flakes*.—1. A. Crossley, Hudson's Miss Thornton; 2, 4, and 6. T. Lord, for Millwood's Premier, Mansley's Euclid, and Colonel Lee's Napoleon; 3, 5, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Mansley's Bonny Bess, Brabbin's 'Squire Meynell, and Ely's Lady Hewley.

*Red-edged Picotees*.—1, 3, 4, 6, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Brooks's Duchess of Cambridge, Ely's Mrs. Horner, Lady Howden, Colonel Lee's Privateer, and Chadwick's William the Conqueror; 2 and 5. T. Lord, for Hepworth's Yorkshire Hero and Wells's Anacreon.

*Purple-edged Picotees*.—1, 2, 3, and 5. T. Lord, for Mitchell's Nulli Secundus, Wood's Princess Alice, Ely's Favourite, and John's Prince Albert; 4, 6, and 7. R. W. Foster, for Ely's Mrs. Lilley, Mitchell's Beauty of Warley, and Burroughes's Duke of Newcastle.

*PANSIES*.—First stand of 12, R. W. Foster, for Youell's Supreme, Cook's Victory and White Serjeant, Turner's Optimus and Chalvey Rival, Bell's Climax, King's Exquisite, Thomason's Duchess of Rutland and Pizarro, Benton's Midnight, Thurtell's Jewess, Giggy's Seedling.

Second stand of 9, Joseph Haigh, for Turner's Optimus, Thompson's Pizarro, Shurtell's Jewess, and six unnamed seedlings.

Third stand of 8, R. W. Foster, for Optimus, Supreme, Jewess, Exquisite, White Serjeant, and Duchess of Rutland.

#### PINK SHOW,

At the house of Mr. T. Oxley, Three Stags' Heads, Pinstone-street, Sheffield, Monday, June 6th.\*

Cup.—J. Ashton, Greensides.

*Purple Lace*.—Premier, J. Ashton, Greensides; 1, 3, and 6. G. Trickett, for True Blue, Suwarrow, and Professor; 2. J. Ashton, Greensides; 4. G. Brasington, Coronation; 5. W. Powel, Doctor Halley; 7. H. Simmonite, Elis; 8. J. Chatterton, Airedale Beauty.

*Red Lace*.—Premier, T. Oxley, Sturge; 1. G. Trickett, Sturge; 2. and 3. H. Barker, for Miss Brandling and Susanna; 4, 5, and 7. A. Nutt, for Adam Smith, Dreadnought, and Criterion; 6. J. Chatterton, Doctor Hepworth; 8. H. Simmonite, Sir Frederick.

*Black and White*.—Premier, H. Simmonite, Beauty of Blackburn; 1. J. Chatterton, Lady Frost; 2. A. Nutt, Miss Jessop; 3. G. Trickett, Kay's Mary; 4. J. Rodgers, Beauty of Blackburn; 5. T. Oxley, Beauty of Claton-le-Moor; 6 and 8. J. Ashton, for Snowball and Superior; 7. W. Powel, White Rock.

#### PINK SHOW,

At the house of Mr. Thomas Oxley, Three Stags' Heads, Sheffield, Monday, June 19th.

Cup.—A. Nutt, Joseph Sturge.

Young grower's kettle.—J. Fletcher, Joseph Sturge.

*Purple Lace*.—Premier, T. Oxley, Greensides; 1. J. Ashton, Elis; 2, 4, 6, and 7. G. Trickett, for Mango, True Blue, Professor, and Duke; 3. H. Simmonite, Coronation; 5 and 8. T. Gelder, for Suwarrow and Airedale Beauty; 9 and 10. A. Nutt, for Sir R. Peel and Magnificent.

*Red Lace*.—Premier, W. Powell, Joseph Sturge; 1. A. Nutt, Joseph Sturge; 2 and 7. G. Brasington, for Louis Tasso and Susanna; 3. J. Chatterton, Doctor Hepworth; 4. S. Stead, Lady Antrobus; 5. T. Gelder, Dreadnought; 6 and 10. J. Ashton, for Codrington and Miss Brandling; 9. B. Morton, Humphrey Cheetham.

*Black and White*.—Premier, B. Morton, Beauty of Blackburn; 1, 5, and 6. J. Ashton, for Lady Frost, Snowball, and Citizen; 2. G. Brasington, Kay's Mary; 3. J. Chatterton, Beauty of Blackburn; 4 and 7. H. Barker, for Miss Jessop and Bosom's Harriet; 8. W. Powell, Superior; 9 and 10. A. Nutt, for Grand Superb and Repeal.

#### PINK SHOW,

Held at the house of Mr. E. Hodgson, Lomax Arms, Great Harwood, July 8.

Best stand of three, one in each class, T. Chippendale, Black-eyed Susan, Joseph Sturge, and Broom Girl.

*Purple-laced*.—Premier prize, for the best single bloom, T. Chippendale, Adam Smith; 1 and 6. G. Gordon, for Mango and Freeman; 2, 3, 4, and 5. T. Chippendale, for Criterion, Adam Smith, Black-eyed Susan, and Huntsman.

*Red-laced*.—1 and 6. R. Barnes, for Joseph Sturge and Thirza; 2 and 3. T. Chippendale, for Lady Antrobus and Susanna; 4 and 5. G. Gordon, for Seedling and Miss Blandling.

*Black and White*.—1, 3, 5, and 6. G. Gordon, for Margaret, Lady Boldhaughton, Overall, and Snowball; 2. R. Barnes, Beauty of Blackburn; 4. T. Chippendale, Kay's Mary.



## Part I.

## ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

DESCRIPTION OF A FEW APPLES RAISED IN THE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD & PECULIAR TO NOTTINGHAM.

BY MR. JOHN SPENCER, OF ADBOLTON.

BEING desirous of adding to the stock of information contained in your useful and excellent little work, the *Midland Florist, and Suburban Horticulturist*, I have endeavoured to describe a few varieties of apples, which I believe are not generally known beyond this and the neighbouring towns. I was personally acquainted with the parties who raised them from seed, and can recollect the young plants being removed to the place where they were to stand for bearing; in fact, they were twice transplanted, and produced their first crop of fruit in 1817 and 1818. They were first propagated for sale, by Mr. Matthew Stevens, of Stanton-by-Dale, who established a small nursery at that place. I planted trees of all the sorts raised, which have been in bearing for years. I have also propagated them extensively; and for a future number, can furnish you with a list of perhaps as many more seedlings, equally deserving the attention of fruit-growers.

*Marmalade*.—This very excellent early variety was originated by Mr. John Stevens, of Stanton Grange, Derbyshire, and was raised from seed of the Keswick Codling. It is above the middle size, and pale yellow when ripe. The habit of the tree is rather spreading, and it is a great bearer. In point of quality it far surpasses its parent, being very juicy, sharp, and pleasant, and, as its name implies, excellent for culinary purposes. It has one of the characteristics of the Keswick, a seam, or sharp ridge, on one side, and is in perfection from July to September.

**Permanent.**—This is a most excellent sort, being large, and a very good keeper. Its season of perfection is from January to April. It is rather an awkward grower, with strong horizontal branches. This was raised from seed by Mr. J. Stevens, between the Keswick and Normanton Wonder, or Dumelow's Seedling. The fruit is yellowish green in colour, dingy red next the sun; rather irregular in shape, with large ribs; the stalk is short, and the eye deep and broad.

**Lady Lennox, or Caldwell Improved.**—Raised from the Caldwell or Rymer Pippin, by Mr. Matthew Stevens. A very superior variety, large and handsome. It is a free grower, bears well, is rather diffuse in its habit, and most excellent for all culinary purposes. Its season is from November to April. The fruit is rather flat at the insertion of the stalk, which is short, and set in a round and shallow cavity; the eye large and rather deep; skin lemon-coloured, with pale red side, striped with deeper red.

**New Northern Greening.**—A decided improvement on its parent, the excellent Old Northern Greening, and raised by Mr. J. Stevens, of the Grange. Upright in growth, with the lower branches of the tree assuming an horizontal character. This is also a first-rate bearer, keeps well, and is in perfection from November to April. The fruit is round, stalk short and pear-shaped, and eye large, set in a wide and shallow cavity, similar to the Blenheim Orange. It is green in colour, thickly covered with russetty spots, and the circumference is generally eleven to twelve inches.

**The Improved Eve Apple.**—Much larger than the parent, possessing all its good qualities, is very erect in growth, and makes a splendid tree. It bears most profusely; in fact, the branches are as thickly set as *ropes of onions*. Its appearance is beautiful, the colour being like the parent. It was raised by Mr. J. Stevens, and is a very superior dessert and market apple. Its season is from October to March. It is singular, that in a large piece of young dwarf trees, hares and rabbits select this sort on which to commit their depredations, and will bark and destroy it in preference to any other.

**The New Bess Pool.**—This bears profusely and makes a very handsome tree. It was also raised from seed by Mr. J. Stevens, from a variety called Deevil's Delight. It is about the middle size, conical, flesh very white and juicy, stalk about an inch long, set in a hollow cavity, and the colour a beautiful dark red, indistinctly streaked with a darker shade. It is a fine dessert or eating apple, and in season from September to the end of the year.

**King William.**—A seedling from the Normanton Wonder. This was also raised by Mr. J. Stevens, of the Grange, and both fruit and tree are decided improvements on the parent. It grows freely, and though the branches are long and slender,

it is of erect habit. It is a most excellent variety for culinary purposes, and is in season from October to April. In form it is rather conical, stalk short and thick, the eye large, and set in a wide and shallow depression. The fruit is large, and yellow, speckled with dots of russet, and often veined with the same colour.

[To the above description of these new apples, we can add our corroborative testimony, as to the excellence of the sorts enumerated. Mr. John Stevens, who raised them, is now settled in America, and doing very well. At Stanton, in Derbyshire, where they were originated, the majority of the hedges round the grass and corn fields are planted with rows of apple trees, which were supplied (*gratis*) by the late Lord Stanhope, to his tenants, from the nursery of the late Mr. Matthew Stevens, and consist principally of the sorts raised by his brother. We by no means recommend this hedge-row planting of fruit trees; as, independent of other objections, the fences are kept up with difficulty, gaps generally being made close to the trees, besides their harbouring birds, &c.—*Ed. M. F.*]

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## DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF SCOTCH TULIPS,

AS YET LITTLE KNOWN IN ENGLAND.

BY BIRRH.

*John Zuill* (Zuill).—This is a very magnificent flower, of fine form, and may be considered a superior third row, feathered rose. The feather, which is strictly confined to the edge, is broad and bright.

*Miss O'Neill* (Zuill).—A third row rose. The cup is short and of fine form; the feather is light, and occasionally breaks a little; the petals are of good substance. It opens creamy, but bleaches perfectly.

*Highland Mary* (Kinningsberg).—A very beautiful flamed rose, rather above the standard, and petals inclined to be narrow. The cup is pure, and the marking pale crimson. Second row.

*Lord John Russell* (Reid).—This variety is rather long; it is also late, and opens creamy; it has, however, great substance of petal, and stands a long time in bloom; it is also a very attractive flower, being a perfect black feather.

*Flora Macdonald* (Reid).—This is a beautifully feathered and flamed rose; colour rosy crimson. It may, if very strictly judged, be considered rather a shade too narrow in the upper part of the petals; still it is very far from being of inferior form. It is a first row flower, pure in the cup, opens creamy, and is somewhat late. It should be planted in the most favourable situation on the bed.

*Prince Charles Stewart* (Neilson).—A second row rosy byblœmen, of an incomparable colour. It is both feathered and flamed; rather narrow at the base, which is pure; and the petals are stout. The feathering of this variety is peculiar, being darkest on the margin, and gradually shading off to a lighter colour.

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## WINDOW MINIATURE GREENHOUSES.

BY MR. RICHARDS, NOTTINGHAM.

I BEG to send you an account of my little greenhouse, which is constructed in the following manner:—The window of my sitting-room has a south-east aspect, and is of the common sash description. On a level with the bottom part, and on the outside of the window, a piece of stout board, two feet in width, and the same breadth as the window, is securely fixed. In the front and on each side of this, a framework of glass is constructed, the exact size of the bottom sash, and is covered with a lid, or light, of the same description, the back of which is fastened by hinges to the bottom part of the top sash. The lid is elevated at the back, in order to allow a fall for the rain; but if it were constructed of whole squares of sheet glass, from back to front, it would require very little fall. Fresh air can be given at any time, by raising the lid. During the winter months, it is heated upon the hot water system, by a small tin boiler, holding about half a pint, and from which a pipe is conveyed round the interior. This boiler is heated by a small lamp.

In this small place I grow about a dozen plants, with tolerable success, as they are free from dust and smoke. It requires but a few minutes' attention each

day, and gives me as much pleasure as the largest conservatories do to their wealthy owners.

The plants which succeed best are, in spring, crocuses, daffodils, narcissuses, hepaticas, and primroses; in summer, fuchsias, balsams, geraniums, scarlet verbenas, heliotropes, &c. Also the several varieties of *Convolvulus major* do well to climb round, upon wires, and look very pretty.

I trust that the foregoing hints will be of service to those who are fond of flowers, and who live in large towns; or to the invalid, who, under the influence of disease, may be unable to leave the house, and who requires some object calculated to awaken attention, and to *while away* many an otherwise tedious hour; if so, my end will be answered.

## THE BEST CARNATIONS & PICOTEEES FOR A YOUNG BEGINNER,

AND WHICH ARE WORTHY OF PLACE IN ANY COLLECTION.

BY J. SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

I HAVE often been written to by parties, for a list of the best carnations and picotees in cultivation, and probably by printing what I consider the best for a new beginner, as well as for an old grower, I may save myself much trouble.

I would, previous to doing this, make a few remarks upon various novelties that have appeared this season. The first to be noticed will be

*Edmonds's Jenny Lind* (Red Picotee).—How, in the name of common sense, can this be called first-rate? What are the first properties of a picotee? I answer, form, size, and ground colour are the essentials, and a heavy or light solid edge, something in the style of a light-edged ranunculus: not composed of dots or stripes, and anything but solid; but one mass of colour, as if a pencil had been passed round the edge of the petals. *Jenny Lind* possesses this, and that is all. The ground colour is decidedly bad.

*Holliday's Delicata* (Light-edged Purple Picotee).—A variety that ought to be in every collection. For form, colour, and breadth of petal, it surpasses all I have seen this season.

*Headley's Venus* (Heavy-edged Rose Picotee).—A gem of the first water.

*Headley's King James* (Heavy-edged Red).—Another star. If all were sent out equal to these two, there would be little cause for complaint.

*Burroughs's Amy* (Purple Picotee).—Good.

*Gatliff's Proconsul* (Heavy-edged Rose Picotee).—Large flower, rather rough on the edge.

*Hudson's Abdaramadah* (Light-edged Red Picotee).—Good.

*Marris's Sylvanus* (Red Picotee).—Not quite solid on the edge.

*Barrenger's Earl Spencer* (Purple Flake).—Everything that could be desired, as to colour, size, and ribboning.

*Slater's Gladiator* (Crimson Bizarre) has this year given general satisfaction. It took the first prize in its class at Leicester, and won at the Bury as well as at the Oldham floral and horticultural exhibition.

#### SCARLET BIZARRES.

##### FIRST COLLECTION.

Martin's Splendid

Hepworth's Leader

— Brilliant

Ely's Jolly Dragoon

Hufton's Patriarch

Martin's Contender

Elliott's Duke of Sutherland

Lodge's Royal Briton

Rainforth's Gameboy

##### SECOND COLLECTION.

Easom's Admiral Curzon

— British Hero

Elliott's Dr. Newton

Appleby's Prince of Wales

Christian's Isonia

#### PINK AND CRIMSON

##### BIZARRES.

##### FIRST COLLECTION.

Mansley's Robert Burns

Ely's Lord Milton

— Duke of Bedford

Wakefield's Paul Pry

Gregory's King Alfred

Holmes's Count Paulina

Soorn's Bloomsbury

#### SECOND COLLECTION.

Ely's Hugo Meynell

Slater's Gladiator

Taylor's Marquis of Westminster

Cartwright's Rainbow

Mason's Sir Robert Peel

#### SCARLET FLAKES.

##### FIRST COLLECTION.

Addenbrook's Lydia

Chadwick's Brilliant

Bramhall's Mrs. Abney

Simpson's Marquis of Granby

Mitchell's Patriot

Wilson's William IV.

Wallis's Beauty of Cradley

Ely's King of Scarlets

##### SECOND COLLECTION.

Ward's Fireball

Willmer's Venella

#### ROSE FLAKES.

##### FIRST COLLECTION.

Lowe's Marchioness of Westminster

Ely's Lady Ely

Irons's Queen Victoria

Fletcher's Queen of England  
 ——— Duchess of Devon-  
 shire

SECOND COLLECTION.

Elliott's Martha  
 May's Ariel  
 Tomlyn's Brisies  
 Copeland's Rose Superb  
 Ely's Lovely Ann  
 ——— Lady Gardiner  
 Barrenger's Apollo  
 Hudson's Lady Flora Hastings  
 Elliott's Duchess of Sutherland  
 Greasley's Village Maid  
 Easom's Elizabeth

PURPLE FLAKES.

FIRST COLLECTION.

Mansley's Bonny Bess  
 ——— Beauty of Wood-  
 house  
 Turner's Princess Charlotte  
 Millwood's Premier  
 Hudson's Miss Thornton  
 Leighton's Bellerophon  
 Brabbin's 'Squire Meynell  
 Lee's Napoleon

SECOND COLLECTION.

Barrenger's Earl Spencer  
 Pollard's First-rate  
 Hufton's Blue Ribbon  
 Evans's Queen Victoria

PURPLE PICOTEES.

*Heavy-edged.*

Crask's Queen Victoria  
 Mitchell's Nulli Secundus  
 Wood's Princess Alice  
 Burroughs's President  
 Ely's Grace Darling  
 ——— Favourite  
 ——— Mrs. Lilley  
 Kirtland's Princess Augusta of  
 Cambridge  
 Wilson's Pluperfect

*Light-edged.*

FIRST COLLECTION.

John's Prince Albert  
 Matthews's Enchantress  
 Burroughs's Duke of Newcastle  
 ——— Miss Jane  
 Kirtland's Queen Victoria  
 Giddin's Vespasian  
 Robinson's Hero of Notting-  
 ham

SECOND COLLECTION.

Holliday's Delicata  
 Burroughs's Amy  
 Crask's Prince Albert

RED PICOTEES.

*Heavy-edged.*

FIRST COLLECTION.

Sharp's Hector  
 ——— Duke of Wellington  
 Ely's Mrs. Horner  
 Jessop's Sir W. Middleton

SECOND COLLECTION.

Wildman's Isabella  
 Dickson's Mrs. Trahar  
 Headley's King James

*Light-edged.*

Hudson's Abdaramadah  
 Burroughs's Mrs. Bevan  
 Cook's President  
 Matthews's Ne plus ultra  
 Tolworthy's Isabella

ROSE PICOTEES.

*Heavy-edged.*

Green's Queen Victoria  
 Willmer's Princess Royal  
 Wilson's Fanny Irby  
 Headley's Venus

*Light-edged.*

Barnard's Mrs. Barnard  
 Burroughs's Lady Alice Peel  
 Crouch's Ivanhoe  
 Garratt's Lady Dacre

## YELLOW PICOTEES.

Barrand's Euphemia  
 Martin's Queen Victoria  
 Harrison's Prince Albert

Hoyles's Topaz  
 Sovereign  
 Groom's Favourite  
 Fox's Beauty of Milltown

The first collection is equally as good as the second; but being much older varieties, are more plentiful, and lower in price.

## OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

NECESSITY OF A UNIVERSALLY-ACKNOWLEDGED  
STANDARD FOR THE PINK.

BY R. M.

I received with much pleasure, the *Midland Florist* for December, 1847, containing the very excellent and valuable article on the standard properties of the pink, by Mr. Bates, of Oxford; and after reading and carefully examining the article, I was inclined to believe that a permanent standard would soon be arrived at, and by that means place this little favourite in the ascendant.

Mr. Bates observes, that no flower ought to be eligible, unless it contain twenty-one petals, which is three tiers and a crown; and when properly dressed and imbricated, will, in my opinion, display every good property that is requisite in a pink.

In the August number of the *Midland Florist*, for 1848, Mr. Slater asserts that a flower ought to contain at least fifteen petals, which clearly shows, that Mr. Slater would prefer a flower with a few more. Now, Mr. Bates's article coming from Oxford, where many of the large and full flowers are grown; and Mr. Slater's article proceeding from Manchester, in which neighbourhood many of the flowers cultivated contain but twelve or fifteen petals; and the difference between the two, as to the number



of petals requisite to constitute a flower, being so small, had a tendency to strengthen my opinion, that we should soon arrive at the much-desired point. But the appearance of Mr. Lightbody's descriptive notes on pinks, in the *Midland Florist*, for September, 1848, almost blighted my hopes of a uniform standard being established at present; for I could scarcely have believed that there should be such a diversity of opinion as to the properties of so small a flower, and one so generally cultivated as the pink. In Mr. Lightbody's notes, there are scarcely two pinks described of any one colour, which clearly shows the want of a uniform standard. I consider that many of the colours named are mongrel, or bad; and Mr. Lightbody, in his article, in the October number, condemns the mongrel-laced varieties. I am induced to believe, that the nearer a purple-laced pink approaches a rich dark purple, and the nearer the red-laced pink to a bright red, the nearer we approximate perfection in colour; the two colours named, and the black and white, being required, when they are exhibited in classes.

Mr. Lightbody appreciates a flower with cupped petals; but if we have a full flower, with the petals gracefully cupped, I am quite at a loss to know how the lacing and circular eye is to be displayed to advantage, as the cupping of the petals must, to a certain extent, obscure the lacing, and therefore detract from the beauty of the flower.

There is another property which Mr. L. names in his description. Of Smith's Whipper-in he pleases to say, that it shows the white margin, which is a point of great beauty. This, I must confess, is *a new point to me*, and likewise to my pink-growing friends in this neighbourhood. I have always thought that a white margin detracted very much from the merits of a flower; so much so, that had I raised a seedling with a white margin and gracefully cupped petals, I most certainly should have thrown it to the weed-heap. I cannot for the present believe that the white

margin is a point of excellence, or why should not it be considered so in the picotee, or the feathered tulip?

Now, I have no doubt that if a uniform standard could be once agreed upon, that improvement in the pink would progress in the same degree that it has done in the picotee; and it would enhance the value of every good seedling that may for the future be raised and sold out,—not by an extra price being charged—by the by, a great many are already charged sadly too much—but by the more extensive sale a person would meet with, on letting a good seedling out, as it would undoubtedly be purchased throughout the whole country, and not merely, as is now the case, in certain localities where the flower may be esteemed. These are not the only advantages that would ensue. It would, in a great measure, be the means of putting a stop to the selling out of the useless flowers which annually takes place, the existence of which, as show flowers, is of short duration. Certainly we should have less seedlings sold out; but those which came up, or nearly so, to some acknowledged standard, would enable us to form a tolerably correct idea of what we might expect.

*Newcastle-under-Lyme, October, 1848.*

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## THE IVY.

BY THE EDITOR.

IN pursuance of our plan, we shall now introduce to our readers a most useful plant for covering walls, or unsightly objects.

The common ivy is so well known as to need but little description from us; and there are few people who do not admire this excellent evergreen, whether clothing the trunk of some aged and storm-worn tree, covering the front of a snug cottage, or overtopping some ruin, whose crumbling walls would otherwise stand in naked and deplorable relief. True, we have

lately heard of architects mourning that the beauties of certain castellated buildings, now in decay, are hidden by the encroaching ivy. This, to a certain extent, may be acknowledged; but we cannot give up the idea, that it adds much to the picturesque appearance of such ruins, and with this opinion, we believe, the majority of our readers will coincide.

Long botanical descriptions do not suit our pages; we shall therefore notice the different varieties after our own fashion.

*The Irish Ivy*, according to the *Arboretum Britannicum*, was introduced into Europe from the Canary Islands, and is a very robust and good variety. It is most in demand for all purposes for which this class of climbers is applicable. We have, ere now, planted it by our dwelling-house side, and have intermingled a plant or two of the Virginian Creeper. During the summer months, the mixture is not very apparent; but in the autumn, the leaves of the Creeper assume a deep scarlet tint, and for a few weeks contrast beautifully with the massive shining dark green foliage which surrounds them. It is of rapid growth, and hardy. The plants only require nailing to the wall, or palings, for the first season; after which it attaches itself readily to walls, palings, trees, &c.

*The Palmated Ivy*.—This has smaller foliage than the Irish, and the leaves are more deeply lobed, or divided, handlike, whence its distinctive name, "palmated." It is a very pretty and distinct sort.

*The Taurian Ivy* (*Hedera Taurica*) is of recent introduction, and the foliage and habit of the plant is even less than the *Palmata*. It emits long slender shoots, and though not forming so large a mass of foliage as either of the preceding, is still very desirable.

*The Yellow-berried Ivy*. (*Hedera chrysocarpa*).—This is a strong and luxuriant-growing plant, differing from the Irish in bearing pale greenish yellow berries. As a variety, it is an acquisition.

*Roeger's Ivy*. (*Hedera Roegeriana*).—This we think superior to any of the preceding. It is a beautiful and well-marked variety; the foliage is extremely large, and very distinctly heart-shaped. It grows as rapidly as the Irish Ivy, and when cheap, will be much in demand.

*The Silver-striped Ivy* is small in foliage, but very neat and constant; growing closely, but not with the rapidity of the before-mentioned sorts. It is decided in its marking, and forms a pleasing contrast with the green varieties.

*The Gold-striped Broad-leaved Ivy* is really a splendid plant, holding a similar position among the ivies to that of the Gold-edged Holly amongst its congeners. The plant is much more robust than the preceding, the variegation very beautiful and constant, and it should be grown by all lovers of variegated plants.

We shall not here describe the arborescent or tree ivies, of which we grow several varieties; but merely observe, that for shady situations, they form admirable undergrowth, and in a future paper, on plants adapted for peculiar situations, we will again allude to them.

### Part II.

## NEW, RARE, OR GOOD FRUITS, FLOWERS, PLANTS, TREES, AND VEGETABLES.



### FRUITS.

GOOSEBERRY.—SPENCER'S PERFECTION.—This is a handsome rough yellow variety, raised from seed, at Crich, in Derbyshire, and sold out this season, at the Crown Inn, Nottingham. We particularly notice this fruit, to impress on our readers who have small gardens, the propriety of raising seedlings. At the sale, the parent, or old plant, was sold for thirty-seven shillings, whilst the one-year-rooted cuttings, to the amount of three or four-and-twenty, sold for seven shillings and sixpence each; making something like ten pounds for the party who raised it. Now what was done by Mr. Spencer may be done by any other person. "*Perseverance is sure to succeed.*"

### GRAPES.

GROS GROMIER DU CAUTAL.—This sort was obtained from Paris, by the London Horticultural Society. It is a strong growing variety. The berries are red, or

grizzly in colour, it being a cross between the Black Hamburgh and Sweetwater; they are large (three inches in circumference), and form very fine bunches. The name will puzzle many of our readers, but, perhaps, it will puzzle them more, for a year or two, to get the vine.

The following, we should say, would be a very desirable sort; and great praise is due to J. Williams, Esq. of Pitmaston, for his endeavour to improve the quality of our out-door grapes. This variety is called **NICE BLACK CLUSTER**, and was raised from the White Nice, fertilized with the Small Black Cluster; the object being to obtain a hardy grape, for south walls. In a good season, it becomes perfectly sweet, on a south wall, by the middle of September. The bunches are large—those from a vinery being nearly a foot long. The berries are small, roundish, inclined to oval, and the juice very sugary.

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## FLOWERS.

### CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

These are become so fashionable, that we must give the names of a few of the newest and best.

*Etoile Polaire*.—An immense flower, of a beautiful bright yellow, and very double.

*Gem of Versailles*.—As its name implies, first-rate, both in form and purity. White.

*Pharamond*.—We hardly know how to designate the colour of this flower. It is not exactly salmon-coloured, neither is it red; but at all events, it is a large and superb flower.

*Standard*.—This, again, is a splendid flower, of most excellent shape, above the middle size, and the colour a pleasing bright purple.

*Madame Chauviere*.—A large and double flower; colour a peculiar deep pink; a splendid and attractive variety.

*Etoile de Versailles*.—An extra fine sort; deep pink, with a striking white centre; very beautiful.

*Henri Himmes*.—This is very distinct indeed, being pure white, distinctly margined with pink.

*King of Crimson*s.—Beautiful deep crimson; a very large and superb double flower.

## DAHLIAS.

We give the following six new ones, from *Glenny's Almanack*:—

*Beauty of Hastings*.—Form of Princess Radziville, good in every point, but reflexing, like its prototype; colour, white, edged with crimson rose; size, as shown, under the average.

*Fearless*.—Slaty lilac (in that point novel), round outline, pretty good face, generally symmetrical and double, good form.

*Rainbow*.—A fine fancy flower, scarlet and white, good of its class.

*Miss Blackmoor*.—Fancy flower, with splendid petal; rather coarse, but nevertheless novel and beautiful.

*Purple Standard*.—Very like the form of Standard of Perfection in all respects, but colour a heavy purple.

*Queen of the East*.—A flower in all respects equal to Marchioness Cornwallis, but with more colour.



## TREES AND SHRUBS.

*ILEX CUMMINGII*.—A very beautiful and distinct holly, erect in growth, with long, pointed, prickly leaves.

*PLATANUS CUCULLATA*.—A remarkable plane, with large leaves, which are waved, or undulated. It will make a handsome lawn tree, and is well adapted for the back of the shrubbery.

*FOX'S SILVER-STRIPED YEW*.—We have received a plant of this very interesting variety, and though it possibly may not get a yard high while we live, still we can appreciate the pleasurable feeling with which large plants of this variety will be contemplated by those who come after us.

*BROUSSONETIA PAPYRIFERA*. (*The Paper Mulberry*.)—As a singular small tree, this is desirable. We have a variegated variety, the leaves of which are blotched with yellow. It does not appear to be of very quick growth, but certainly is interesting. Unfortunately, however, many of the variegated trees imported from the Continent, when grown in strong and rich soil, lose their marked character, and assume

their common aspect. This has happened with several that we have had, which were very beautiful the first season; especially the Gold-striped Occidental Plane, and the Gold-striped Alder. These now produce leaves entirely green. On the other hand, the Silver-striped Hornbeam retains its character, and is very pretty.

While we are on the subject of variegated plants, we may observe, that amongst a number of Silver Firs, in our nursery, which are about eighteen inches high, we have one with the foliage tipped with bright yellow, in many cases covering at least half the leaf. We first observed it last winter, and it has retained its peculiarity, and is certainly very pretty. We shall be glad to hear from any of our readers, whether they have noticed similar varieties or sports.

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## HARDY HERBACEOUS PLANTS.

There are some good new phloxes. In fact, this tribe of plants has undergone much improvement, of late years. Some of the best have been imported from the Continent; and amongst them, we have

- P. Herman Rægel*.—This is a white flower, with purple eye. A plant of beautiful habit, with compact trusses of flowers. It does not, like many of the older varieties, attain a great height, seldom reaching more than two feet.
- P. Shalecteri*.—A sort remarkable for its well-formed flowers, of a peculiarly beautiful pink; combining size, form, and excellence of habit in a pre-eminent degree.
- P. Cælestis*.—We have seen this flower in very fine character. There are so few really blue phloxes of good form, that this variety may be considered the best yet introduced; the petals are thick and smooth, and the truss is fine.
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## VEGETABLES.

POTATO.—THURSTON'S CONQUEROR.—This fine kidney is of first-rate flavour, mealy, and extremely prolific. One of the best sorts grown.

**PEA.—THURSTON'S RELIANCE.**—A tall-growing variety, but excellent. The pods are very long, often reaching five inches. For exhibition, this would be a fine sort to grow, even in a small garden, as it could be trained to a stake; and in large gardens, where space is not so much an object, it will be found a valuable acquisition.

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## EXTRACTS, HINTS, AND RECOLLECTIONS.

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### A MECHANIC'S FLOWER GARDEN.

BY THE EDITOR.

WE have always felt much interest in window gardening, and were especially pleased to see the subject advocated in the columns of the *Gardener's Chronicle*, and some description given of the plan carried out on the Continent. The love of flowers is so inherent, that it is scarcely possible to find those who do not, in some way or other, foster and cultivate them. One way of proving the interest which may be excited, and by what singular methods greenhouse plants may be grown by the artizan or mechanic (thus humbly vieing with those whom Providence has placed in a higher sphere, and evidencing that, though the means are unequal, still the ardent love and admiration of nature's fair forms exist with equal intensity), is exemplified in the following notice.

Twelve or fifteen years ago, a lace-maker, or *twist-hand*, as they are here designated, named Joseph Harris, resided at Beeston, near Nottingham. The machine which he daily worked stood by the side of a large window, overlooking a small piece of garden, about six yards square. Here he was occupied during eight or ten hours a-day. His periods of relaxation were devoted to reading, and the high cultivation of this small spot of ground; and it was really astonish-



ing to see the wonderful quantity of plants collected together, and beautifully grown, in this small space. In the centre, he had a basin of water, about three feet across, in which were gold fish. These he placed in a glass globe, in his shop, during winter. The basin was supplied with water from a tub, raised considerably above the surface of the ground, and hidden by the boundary pales of one side of the garden; and from this source, by turning a tap, he had a miniature fountain. Around the basin were small beds, for various plants; and in one corner he had ingeniously constructed a piece of neat rock-work, on which some of the smaller varieties of alpine plants were grown; and as we hope some of our readers will follow the example of Joseph Harris, we shall name those that he selected for this purpose. There was the pretty *Linaria cymbalaria variegata*, one of the most attractive plants for rock-work that we know, with its long flexile shoots, and beautifully variegated leaves. Then he had another plant, the *Arabis lucida variegata* (Variegated Shining-leaved Wall Cress), with leaves striped with green and yellow, and of compact and neat habit. The *Campanula pumila* (Dwarf Bell-flower), with its erect purple bells; and the very neat *Campanula hederaefolia* (Ivy-leaved Bell-flower). To these were added several pretty varieties of stone crops, or sedums, the Gold-striped Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), *Saxifraga hirculus*, with the very beautiful *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, and *hypnoides*, several small ferns, &c. On one part of the paling which formed the fence of his garden, he trained some beautiful plants, seldom met with, except in the gardens of the higher classes. There was the *Cistus formosa*, one of the most beautiful of half-hardy shrubs, with its profusion of bright yellow flowers, with a dark spot at the base of each petal; the Gum cistus, a hardy evergreen, which, though a striking object, he complained was too strong for his limited space; but perhaps his best idea was planting the splendid hardy climber, *Glycine*

sinensis, and training a single shoot round the top of his pales, so that the flowers might form a pendent blue fringe to his garden, or a frame, or border, if I may so call it, to the very interesting spot he was beautifying. This was done to some extent, but he left the village before it could be wholly accomplished.

His other plants were tree pæonies, verbenas, and pansies (the best of those days), dwarf China roses, &c. But we must now notice his miniature greenhouse. This was a large hand-glass, about two feet square, which he placed on the outside of the window, and communicating with the interior of the shop by a small door, formed of a square of glass. The hand-glass was fixed on a level with his head, and as he sat at work, his eye was, as may well be supposed, often on it. Here he cultivated several pretty little plants. He had one or two varieties of fairy roses, a small-growing fancy geranium (*Yeatmiamum*), several fuchsias, &c. These were always most carefully tended, were extremely healthy, and flowered well. He did not let them get large, but kept them compact, by using small pots, and frequently pinching off the ends of the shoots. In winter, during the night, a mat was thrown over the glass, and the little door communicating with the shop left open. As there was a fire in the shop during the day, the plants were preserved by the warm air, and thus escaped the frost uninjured.

Now, in attempting to describe this poor man's garden thus briefly, we do so for this reason. In grander works than our own, large residences and gardens are described; perhaps Eaton Hall, Chatsworth, and hundreds of other places. These works do not often find their way into the artizan's hands, and if they did, he seldom could glean much that would, in his station, be serviceable to him. But this is an example for the million—for the mechanic—for the labourer. If they grow potatoes, cabbage, onions, &c. for food, the formation and cultivation of a small flower garden is the *relaxation*, for the *improvement*

and *humanization* of the mind—the *oasis* of enjoyment in the desert of labour. The beauteous forms and tints which open to their view, are the gladdening smile which relaxes the grim frown of incessant, and too often ill-requited, daily labour. And here we would repeat again, and urge, while we can wield a pen, or jot down a thought, the imperative duty of the higher and influential classes to kindly foster horticulture and floriculture amongst their dependants, or those immediately around them. How often do we see liberal contributions made for purposes not half so important, and from which, in comparison with this, *positive evil* frequently results. How glad shall we be to record in the *Midland Florist, and Suburban Horticulturist*, any notice of such a kindly progressive spirit; and earnestly will we exert our humble endeavours to forward the good work.

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#### PROPAGATING OR MULTIPLYING MUSHROOM SPAWN, AND RAISING MUSHROOMS IN WINTER.

MUSHROOM SPAWN, or the mycelium of the *Agaricus campestris*, may often be found on the floor of an empty outhouse, where horses have been kept for a length of time; and from that source I originally obtained it at Pinkie. It may be preserved in small masses, in a dry place, for future use.

There are various ways of increasing mushroom spawn; but the following is, perhaps, one of the most simple, and I have always got the best spawn by adopting it. In the month of July, prepare a quantity of short litter, mixed with horse droppings. Lay this heap in the corner of a shed, about two feet thick, beating it gently down. This heap will heat pretty strongly at first, but when the heat has subsided to about milk-warm, insert pieces of spawn into the centre of the heap. If the heap get rather cold, and there be not enough of heat to cause the spawn to run, cover the heap with warm horse dung,

so as to diffuse a gentle heat through the whole mass. When the spawn has run through every part, have the whole taken into a dry loft, where it is to be kept till wanted.

Another way which is sometimes adopted, and which I believe is the most general way of increasing mushroom spawn, is the following:—Collect a quantity of horse droppings, preferring those of horses kept on oats and hay, which are more productive than those of horses fed with grass and clover, or other soft food. The droppings are collected into a shed, as they can be gathered from the stables, turning the masses out in the day time, to dry a little, if the weather permit. When we have collected enough to make a bed, I have it all taken into the mushroom-house; and if not enough dried, it is spread on the floor, and on the tops of the flues, turning once or twice a-day, until we consider it half dried. It is then laid altogether in a heap, to sweat the rank heat out of it; turning it over three or four times a-day, to keep it from burning. When the heat has well subsided, which is generally in about five or six days, we begin to make up the bed, on a shelf fitted up for the purpose, two feet six inches broad, and eleven inches deep. This is filled up till within an inch of the top, beating the mass down in successive portions, with a brick or mallet, as firm as possible, as the shelf is being filled. If it do not heat very vehemently, then all is going on well; but if it begin to burn, turn it up with a dung-fork, to let the rank heat escape. When that has passed off, beat all down as before, and in a day or two the bed is ready for spawning.

The heat in the bed, when spawned, should not exceed ninety degrees of Fahrenheit, when the thermometer is sunk five inches in the bed. When of this heat, insert pieces of spawn, a little larger than a hen's egg, nine inches apart, and just so deep as to be little more than covered. Lay on earth of a strong loamy character immediately, three inches deep,

and beat it all over firm, with the back of a spade. In this state let the bed lie for eight or ten days, in which time the heat will have declined a little. Then cover it all over with hay, which will increase the heat considerably. Water it on the top of the hay, with a syringe, two or three times a week, with water of the same temperature as the house, which is generally about sixty degrees of Fahrenheit. I never water directly on the surface of the bed, finding this, from experience, to have a bad effect. In about five or six weeks, at longest, the mushrooms make their appearance. I generally gather two pints a day, from a bed two feet and a half wide, by twenty-seven feet long. I have frequently, however, got as much as two pecks in one day, when the bed has been in full bearing; and on one occasion, I had two and a half quart bottles of catsup made from a single gathering.

*Gardener's Chronicle.*

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## ON RAISING NEW VARIETIES OF CARNATIONS AND PICOTEEES.

New varieties of the carnation can only be obtained from seed, and to procure seed that is worth sowing, or any sort of care, you must resort *principally* to hybridizing or artificial cross-impregnation; for seed produced in the ordinary course, from any sort that may yield it, will seldom furnish more than one new variety in a hundred, that florists consider worth preserving, or one in a thousand, possessing every first-rate quality; therefore I consider it the highest folly to sow seed that is not the produce of *the very best sorts*, or artificially impregnated sorts, crossed with the best of *the same class*, for the cross should always be with the same class of flowers;—that is, scarlet bizarres with scarlet bizarres, crimson with crimson, scarlet flakes with scarlet flakes, rose with rose, &c. A distinct cross, such as picotees with bizarres, can

only produce mongrels, of no value whatever; and the idea, supported by some, that one pod of seed will produce every class of flowers perfect, is so preposterous, that I am unwilling to believe there is a practical florist in existence who can entertain such nonsense. Those that have the largest and roundest petals, with the smoothest edge, should always have the preference to gather seed from; and those with long narrow flimsy petals, or that have serrated edges, with a disposition to reflex, or curl backwards, should be rejected.

A little before the blooms that you intend to cross for the production of seed are quite expanded, or *before the anthers are bursted*, a few of the *inner* petals, and all the *stamens*, should be carefully extracted, with a small pair of scissors or tweezers, leaving the styles, which appear above the blooms like horns, entire and untouched, and two or three of the outer rows of petals remaining. A similar operation is required upon the blooms you intend to produce the pollen (which may be *gathered*, when desirable to take a favourite to a distance, or bring one back), except that you must very carefully remove a portion of the inner petals, by cutting them off just below the stamens, not pulling them, lest you draw out the stamens also; and cut off the style, or stigma, nearly down to the pericarpium, or seed vessel, leaving the stamens entire. This should also be done *before* the anthers are burst. The blooms may, *if gathered*, be kept in a bottle of water, in a sunny window, till the anthers open, and the farina or fertilizing powder has become rather loose upon them, when it should be carefully carried to the bloom that you intend for the seed parent, upon the style of which you must endeavour to lodge all the farina you can; or to make the most of the farina of a favourite carnation, you may carefully extract and use one stamen at a time, with a pair of tweezers, as sometimes two or three stamens will contain enough farina to fertilize one carnation. A very

little will be effective, if properly applied. I sometimes use a very small camel-hair pencil for the purpose of removing the farina from the stamens of one to the style of the other, and by that means can fertilize several with one favourite sort.

About the second day after inoculation, if it has taken effect, the petals invariably collapse and fade, something in the manner of a convolvulus; and sooner in a bloom that is just at its full expansion, than in one that is five or six days older. The effect is the same upon pinks, but I have not observed that it is so with any other sorts of flowers. The blooms should never be exposed to much rain, immediately before, nor some time after inoculation,—better not at all. Much wet is always fatal to your purpose. Nor should they be disturbed by violent wind. They should hang down while in flower (if not under a glass), sufficiently to prevent a lodgment of wet in the calyx, or it will rot the seed; and they should be confined in that position till the petals are decayed, when they may be loosened, and the petals carefully removed, *one at a time*, lest you break off the seed vessel, or injure the styles, which should be carefully avoided, leaving them in their inclining position, as before.

When I consider a favourite sort cannot be improved by a cross, I fertilize it with its own farina, by taking hold of the bloom, at the time I perceive the farina loose upon the anthers, and drawing the petals upwards, closing and gently pressing them, with a slight twist. This simple operation will generally lodge all the farina upon the style, which, if omitted, might be blown or washed away, and, in either case, no seed produced.

The sooner you can commence fertilizing the better, in order to give the seed the fairest chance to ripen, which, in a wet season, is very difficult; and remember that the leading bloom will always produce the finest seed.

*Essay on the Carnation, revised by Mr. John Dickson.*

## ON PRUNING NUT AND FILBERT TREES.

THE clear stems of nut and filbert trees must not be less than a foot high; and the centre shoots should be cut away, to form the tree into a bowl-shape. This is done to admit plenty of light among the branches. It is found that filberts growing in a neglected, or untrained state, produce their fruit for the most part on the extremities of the branches only; whilst those put under a course of cultivation, yield liberally from all sides of the leading shoots. In training the young shoots, therefore, regard must be had to these circumstances, and the young shoots trained accordingly. In doing so, it is merely necessary, in pruning, to leave a series of leading shoots, in a circular form, at nearly equal distances; about six, well placed, would form a good tree. These will produce plenty of laterals, which must in their turn be subjected to a severe thinning, at the pruning period, especially in their earlier stages. The fruit of the nut is produced on the wood of the previous year, and, like other fruit trees, it will be sought in vain on luxuriant or gross shoots. In addition to thinning out, shortening must be had recourse to; and when the tree has acquired a little age, the main shoots, shortened, will produce lateral shoots, which, under proper circumstances, will produce blossoms. It is well known that the best period for pruning is when the nuts are in blossom, which is commonly about the end of February; in fact when the catkins, which are the male blossoms, are shedding their fertilizing dust. At this period, both the male and female blossoms may be detected, and much of the wood which produces neither may be pruned away, especially if towards the interior of the bush. All the stronger shoots should be shortened at the extremities, in order to force out lateral shoots for the succeeding year, which, if the tree be in a proper state, will in the main be of a fruitful character. At this period, if there be a deficiency of male blooms, or catkins,



it will be necessary to bring some shoots, laden with catkins, from the wild hazel, and suspend them amongst the filberts. These will perform the indispensable office of impregnation. It may here be observed that the female blossom is of very obscure character, merely tipping the fruit buds with a little crimson brush.

*Maund's Botanic Garden.*

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### AUTUMN CULTIVATION OF THE RASPBERRY.

IN the *Gardener's Journal*, Mr. John Mearns, F.H.S. gives the following directions:—As it is of importance in most large establishments, to procure raspberries in abundance, to as late a period as the season will permit, and as I have proved the following method to accomplish that end, since 1830, I send it, as it may prove serviceable to many of your readers. Early in, or as late as the end of May, cut off, or even slip off all the young bearing shoots from the former year's canes: in a brief period, they will spring again from the same eyes, but instead of one shoot, there will be two, and if the canes are strong and healthy, three, and often four, from the same eye, equally as fruitful as the former, the fruit upon all as fine as that produced upon the earlier single cane, and they will continue to bear plentifully through the months of August and September.

The double-bearing varieties—(Mr. Williams's, of Pitmaston, near Worcester, is the best variety I have yet seen)—are generally valued for the purpose of late fruiting upon the strongest canes of the same season, but the fruit is inferior, both in size and flavour, to many of the new scarlet varieties. To improve the strength of the canes, and their consequent fructiferous (fruit-bearing) powers, in the pruning season, cut away every one of the canes of the former season; they are not required; they only rot and keep the light and air from benefitting the

younger canes intended for autumnal bearing, and there will be plenty of the choicer kinds at the same season those would be ripe, which, if well attended to, will produce fruit till the frost checks them.

In the growing season, it is of importance to select only a few of the finest and best placed canes, and clear the ground of all the rest, or of any superfluous matter, that may keep the light, heat, or air from the canes, in their early growth, and the gardener's hopes will not be disappointed. The raspberry, to do well, should have manure, and not remain above three or four years in one place; even then, upon the same ground, like all kinds of live stock, they consume all their own peculiar food, and want fresh pasture. I always found that lime rubbish had the effect of producing strong canes and very fine fruit.

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## ON THE POT CULTURE OF THE GENUS GLADIOLUS.

FEW plants are more beautiful, or better adapted for ornamenting the drawing-room and conservatory, for a lengthened period, than some of the varieties of the genus *Gladiolus*. I have for several years cultivated many of the sorts, but more especially the *G. insignis*, *byzantinus*, and *cardinalis*; and certainly the brilliant display of flowers they produce will amply compensate for any trouble that may be taken in their cultivation.

The last week in September is the time I usually repot them, using pots of various sizes, from five inches to a foot in diameter, in order the more readily to adapt them to ornamental pots, vases or stands, as future circumstances may require. The soil I have found well suited to their growth, is composed of yellow fibrous loam and turfy peat, of equal quantities, with the addition of a little silver sand and leaf mould; using it in a tolerably rough condition, over a thorough drainage. The number of bulbs placed in each pot is regulated by their size; the largest

pots producing from fifteen to twenty spikes of the most fascinating colours, and whether placed on stands, among the foliage of conservatory plants, or plunged in vases, or baskets of moss or lichen, the effect is gorgeous and pleasing. Liquid manure is frequently administered during the period of growth; and when the plants have done flowering, they are removed to the open air, for the purpose of perfecting the process of vegetation. So soon as the foliage shows symptoms of decay, water is gradually withheld, and the pots are finally laid on their sides, in a shady situation, in order to moderate the action of light and moisture on the roots, while in a state of repose.

*Horticultural Society's Journal.*

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### CULTIVATION OF PARSLEY.

I WILL here endeavour briefly to state my own method of cultivating and producing plentifully this useful herb, throughout the year.

I choose a nice wholesome healthy piece of ground, that has been trenched and manured, and laid up in rough ridges for some time, to allow the atmosphere to penetrate it; and if the ridges have been forked over once or twice, on a frosty morning, so much the better. Of course, a rather sheltered situation is preferred for winter purposes. On a fine day, any time between the first week in March and the beginning of April (the criterion to go by, is the ground being in good condition), I prepare shallow drills, one foot apart, and sow the best curled variety of parsley that can be procured. By sowing earlier, I find, through the coldness of the earth, the seed lies long, and at last comes weak, and the plants never thrive so well afterwards. As soon as the plants are up, and the rows can be seen, with a suitable Dutch hoe, I cut through the earth's surface, between each row; then, with a rake carefully drawn across the

rows once, I break the surface. The plants are now at liberty to grow, and they will grow vigorously ; for in a few days they will have made two leaves, besides the seed leaves. Then, with a three-inch crane-necked hoe in each hand, sharp and in good condition, I cut through the rows and between the plants, right and left, leaving them single and clear of each other in the row. When the above operation is over, a suitable Dutch hoe should be passed again up and down between the rows, leaving the whole surface loosened and broken ; and so continue breaking the earth's surface all through the season. When the plants are finally and permanently thinned, they should stand one foot apart each way. It is in making a healthy preparation, and taking advantage of a fine day for committing either the seeds or plants to the earth, that I find the most successful practice ; not to sow on a certain day of the month, because I hear somebody's grandfather always did, and because I have heard parsley seed should lie in the ground nine weeks before coming up, &c.

*Mr. Barnes, Bicton.*

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## DAHLIAS.

### THE BEST TWENTY-FOUR ALREADY SOLD OUT.

1. *Marchioness of Cornwallis* (Whale).—Blush. 3 feet.
2. *Yellow Standard* (Keynes).—Yellow. 2 feet.
3. *Scarlet Gem* (Turner).—Dull scarlet. 3 feet.
4. *Mynn* (Drummond).—Crimson. 4 feet.
5. *Shylock* (Collison).—Scarlet. 3 feet.
6. *Nonpareil* (Prockter).—Bright red. 3 feet.
7. *Black Prince* (Mitchell).—Marone. 4 feet.
8. *Andromeda* (Collison).—Buff, purple tip. 4 feet.
9. *Louis Phillipe* (Turner).—Crimson. 4 feet.
10. *Richard Cobden* (Stein).—Dark crimson. 3 to 4 feet.
11. *Princess Radziville* (Gaines).—White and crimson purple, tipped and shaded. 3 feet.
12. *Marquis of Worcester* (Sealy).—White and rose. 4 feet.
13. *Queen of Roses* (Widnall).—Light shaded rose. 3 feet.
14. *Essex Triumph* (Turville).—Dark Marone. 4 feet.

15. *Captain Warner* (Girling).—Crimson. 3 to 4 feet.
16. *Mrs. Anderson* (Girling).—Pale lilac. 5 feet.
17. *Beeswing* (Sainsbury).—Ruby crimson. 3 feet.
18. *Privateer* (Turner).—Yellow, bright red tip. 3 feet.
19. *Standard of Perfection* (Keynes).—Rosy crimson. 3 feet.
20. *Miss Vyse* (Turner).—White, purple tip. 3 feet.
21. *Toisson d'Or* (Batteur).—Buff. 2 to 3 feet.
22. *Lady St. Maur* (Brown).—White, lavender tip. 4 feet.
23. *Captivation* (Brown).—Shaded purple. 4 feet.
24. *Boz* (Drummond).—Deep scarlet. 5 feet.

### FIRST-RATE NEW, SHOWN THIS SEASON.

- Mr. Seldon* (Turner).—Shaded purple and lilac.  
*Beauty of Hastings* (Barham).—White, rosy crimson tip.  
*Queen of the East* (Barnes).—Blush.  
*Dreadnought* (Collison).—Purple marone.  
*Grenadier* (Turner).—Ruby crimson.  
*Duke of Wellington* (Drummond).—Orange scarlet.  
*Fearless* (Barnes).—Lilac.  
*Princess Louisa* (Fellows).—Shaded buff.  
*Violet Perfection* (Prockter).—Violet purple.  
*Purple Standard* (Rawlings).—Purple.

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## MODE OF CULTIVATING THE MELON.

BY MR J. CUTHILL, OF CAMBERWELL.

IN the first place, the seed box ought to be set upon four-inch brickwork, all round, with right holes, the inside filled with faggots; put six or eight inches of dry leaves, with a little dry mould, to finish; the linings can be fetched from the stable yard, and put direct to the pit, finishing with a foot of leaves upon the top. The seeds should be sown in a pan, such as is generally used under strawberry pots, in the forcing house, for this reason,—the roots strike directly to the bottom, which makes the plants much more fibrously rooted than if sown in a deep pot. The soil should be one-half loam, and the other half leaf or other light mould. The heat of the bed must never go below seventy, nor rise above eighty degrees, with an inch of air, night or day: no covering, unless in very bad weather. When the seed leaves separate, it

is time to pot the plants; the pots used are sixties, and two plants are placed in each. The draining should be horse dung, dried on purpose. The mould must always be very dry, to allow of a little water, to settle the roots. The roots should only be covered, and the pots filled up afterwards. The usual practice is to fill up with mould at once, and next morning, we find the plants drawn and half spoiled, with the heat of the mould and watering together. When water is required, keep some very dry mould in the frame, and put a little of it on the surface of the pot, about an hour after watering: that is the only preventive of damps. In setting the plants in the frame, they ought to range east and west, and if possible, to change their position right round, every day. If your seed bed stands exposed, you might put up a screen of matting, to keep off the cold north winds, but never allow your covering to lap too far over—to keep out the cold, as people suppose—for heated air will always prevent cold from entering. If the above directions are properly attended to, plants will be ready to put out in five weeks. I am speaking of melons sown on the 1st of February. I also consider that half the labour and care are over when the plants are moved from the seed box. Take great care of an infant the first year, and its constitution will be good, and its legs straight for ever afterwards;—the same with a vegetable. All the skill a man can possess will not make a plant productive, if not well attended to when very young. Now for the planting out. Your plants have by this time been once stopped, say 5th of March, and the pit or frame got quite ready; the hills ought to be fifteen or eighteen inches from the glass; the plants thrive much better, on account of the great body of air; the first hills should be a foot high, composed of one-half loam, and the other half leaf or any light mould. No dung mixed with the hills. In planting out, let one plant take the back, the other the front side of the pit or frame. Watering depends upon

the state of the things at the time. In the course of a short time, they will want a second stopping. As the roots appear, lead them down the hills, by covering them with a little mould, adding at the same time about two inches of mould over the surface of the bed; and as the roots cross the bed, when they make their appearance, cover them with mould, kept in pots, in the pit, on purpose, and continue doing so, until the fruit is all set; and after that time they must not be disturbed, neither must you over-mould the bed. When finished, the hills ought to be four inches higher than the surrounding mould; six or eight inches I consider quite enough for very early melons. I allow three or four runners from each plant, and when they grow within six or eight inches of the frame, I stop them. In a few days, they put out their side shoots, with fruit in abundance. Stop them one joint beyond the fruit, upon each plant. If one or two be wanted very early, cover the fruit with sand or dry mould. After it gets the size of a walnut, you may plunge a glass, if you want to know the heat; you will find the fruit swelling rapidly in a bottom heat of about ninety, at fifteen degrees more than you dare keep the atmosphere of the pit at. I syringe a great deal overhead and round the flues with diluted dung-water; but as soon as I see the melons are nearly full grown, water is withheld altogether. In watering, I never allow any to touch the centre of the plant. I may state also, that I am not a great advocate for much dung with the mould; neither do I like mould over stiff, nor allow it to be trodden like a highway. I always keep a toad in the frames, from the beginning, to eat the woodlice.

By strictly adhering to the above, I have cut melons four years, from the 5th to the 10th of May. I have also set fruit on the 5th of April, and cut the melons on the 5th of May. I was the first that ever had a medal from the Horticultural Society, on the 10th of May, 1837, until the show days were altered to the end of May.

Although it is several years since the above was written, I have but little to add to it. I may mention that I have cut seventy-two melons out of a twelve-light pit, and all sold in Covent Garden, by the 10th of May. The sort was Cuthill's Early Scarlet Flesh, by far the hardiest and best for an amateur, and the only one now grown for the first crops in Covent Garden.

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**THE POISON OAK.** (*Rhus toxicodendron*).—This variety of sumach is extremely deleterious; and having seen its poisonous qualities lately noticed in the *Chronicle*, brings to our mind a circumstance connected with this plant, which was nearly attended with fatal consequences. We record it amongst our hints, as a caution to young people, who often fancy they are wiser than those who have older heads and more experience. In one of the nurseries belonging to the party with whom we served our apprenticeship, was a low spreading ash-leaved-looking bush, to which was attached a bad character, in regard to its poisonous qualities. Men who had worked on the ground many years used to warn us youngsters against meddling with it; and from the descriptions they gave, we fancied it was something like the upas tree, and consequently took precious good care not to go within yards of it. One youth amongst us, who had at that time more selfwill and conceit than knowledge of plants, and was slow to believe what these experienced men told him, determined, in spite of their remonstrances, to apply some of the juice to his arm, on which was a small pimple, arguing that if he did not take it internally, it could not hurt him. It was in the month of May, and the foolish youth broke off a branch, from which the sap oozed out, and this he applied to the eruption on his arm. In the course of a week he was attacked with dreadful sickness and giddiness; his tongue, face, and body broke out in



large blotches, just as though he had been scalded or burnt; he was confined to his bed, and under the doctor's hands for a considerable time, and had a very narrow escape indeed from death. After he got better, the poison still lurked in his system, and on the return of every spring, about the time when he applied the poisonous juice of the tree, he had much giddiness, and his face and arms had similar eruptions to those on the first attack, but in a much milder form. After this unfortunate affair, the tree was grubbed up, in order to prevent others from making similar experiments. We think that in arboretums, where trees of this description are introduced, a light wire protection should be put round them, in order to prevent children from plucking the berries, &c.; and they ought likewise, in addition to the name, &c. be designated, in conspicuous characters, as "HIGHLY POISONOUS."

**HYBRIDIZING, OR CROSS-BREEDING.**—Hitherto the operation of hybridizing has been mainly confined to gardens. But see what advantages have come of it there. What were our roses, in 1789, when the first China rose reached England? and what are they now? The China rose hybridizes so freely with almost every other, that there is hardly an ancient species to which it has not lent some part of its rich foliage, gay colours, and abundant blooming. Can anything be more striking than the effect of hybridizing upon pelargoniums, heaths, gloxinias, verbenas, and gladioli? By this process, we have given to the hardy pears of the north, all the richness and delicacy of those of the south; to watery grapes, the perfume of the Muscat; to the pale-faced but hardy rhododendrons of the Caucasus and America, the rich and glowing colours of their tender brethren in India; To the gaudy azalea of Pontus, the crimson of the small-flowering fragrant species of the United States. Such striking consequences of the very first operations in hybridizing, have excited a universal desire to vary

and extend them. Every body now, who cares for his garden, asks himself in the first place, what he can do to get seedlings; and to hybridizing he looks exclusively for assistance. If a fine new species of an ancient family appear, its good points as a "*brood plant*" are among the first things discussed, and its value is much determined by its fitness for hybridizing. Nor is this to be wondered at. Hybridizing is a game of chance, played between man and plants. It is in some respects a matter of hazard; and we all know how much more excitement is produced by uncertain than by certain results. What increases the charm of the game is, that although the end of it may be doubtful, yet a good player (hybridizer) can judge of the issue with tolerable confidence, and that skill and judgment have in this case all their customary value.

**TYING HERBACEOUS PLANTS.**—Instead of tying these up like sheaves of corn, have a hoop of small wire, drawn through, or fastened tightly to an upright stick, placed in the ground. Then let the flower-stalks be tied regularly round the hoop, leaving some loose ones in the centre, to form a close head.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.—[This, no doubt, is a good plan. Such plants as phloxes, &c. do not display half their beauty, when drawn tight together, in the usual way.]

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## SPIRIT OF THE PERIODICALS.

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**THE FLORISTS' JOURNAL.**—The embellishment is *Zauschneria Californica*, a very beautiful new hardy plant, from California, introduced into this country, by Mr. Hartweg. It has scarlet flowers, which are produced in great profusion, and is, no doubt, one of the best herbaceous plants lately introduced. There is a good paper on the cyclamens, a tribe of plants

which are very beautiful, and are not seen in gardens half so often as they ought to be. The following are named, and we would strongly recommend them to those who are fond of low-growing early-flowering plants :—

- C. Hederifolium*.—The flowers of the species are purple; but there are two varieties—one termed *Albidum*, with white flowers; the other *Purpurascens*, bearing blossoms of a deeper hue than the parent. The species blooms in March and April; the varieties above-mentioned, six weeks or two months later.
- C. Europæum*.—The flowers are lilac and red; flowering late in autumn, or early in spring.
- C. Latifolium*.—The leaves are angular, and deep green; the flowers red, and produced in March. This variety is sometimes sold for *C. Ibericum*.
- C. Neapolitanum*.—This resembles *Hederifolium*, but has red flowers, which are produced in March.
- C. Persicum*.—Stated to be the most valuable of the genus; flowers red and white. This is a greenhouse plant, and a very beautiful one, adapted for small frames, pits, or flued houses. There are several varieties; *Albidum*, with pure white flowers; *Inodoratum*; and *Lacineata*.
- C. Vernum*.—A sweet pretty plant; leaves heart-shaped, flowers rosy purple, blooming in March and April.

It is recommended to hybridize these; and as they all produce seed freely, and grow readily, we heartily concur with the writer, that the experiment is worth trying. The other interesting papers are on *Convolvulacæ*, *Ipomopsis elegans*, *Calceolarias*, *New Plants*, *Floricultural Hints*, &c.

**THE BOTANIC GARDEN.**—This is an excellent number, and the plates are well executed. The figures are, that very pretty plant *Cuphea platycentra* (The Broad-spurred Cuphea) with its tubular scarlet flowers, tipped with white and black. The *Sweet Gale*, a dwarf shrub, growing in many parts of Great Britain, in boggy places. The branches are highly scented, and are placed amongst clothes, in the same way as lavender, to give them an agreeable perfume. The

*Leucojum pulchellum* (Pretty Snowflake); and the *Campanula nobelis* (Noble Bell Flower), a fine and interesting variety, that will soon become common, from the facility with which it is increased, by the division of its roots. There is also a notice of the Chevereuse Pear. It is stated to be in perfection from the middle of October to the middle of November; the flesh yellowish, juicy, melting, mixed with a little fine grit, sugary, and having a rich perfumed flavour.

**THE FLORICULTURAL CABINET.**—The illustration, like the *Florists' Journal*, is the *Zauschneria Californica*, which Dr. Lindley says is a fine hardy perennial plant, rivalling the fuchsia, and will most probably bloom from June to October. The articles are, Notes on New and Rare Plants, Culture of Flowers for Winter Decoration, Neapolitan Violets, The Chrysanthemum, &c. There is a good idea relative to the latter plant (the chrysanthemum), which we must extract for our readers. "If a strong plant is grown in the centre of a small circular bed, the shoots should be layered regularly round, and the top removed. Each layer will push a profusion of shoots, which will be covered with bloom, and flower beautifully in the autumn. These lateral shoots may be pegged down again, if desirable, so that the flowers may not stand more than six inches from the bed."

**THE HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE.**—The contents are, The Management of Villa Gardens, Notes on Flowers and Flowering Plants, Draining, Titled Gardeners, British Wild Flowers, Uses of Lime, New Grapes, &c. Lime ought to be used by our readers, in one way or another, and therefore we shall notice a few of the directions given. "Lime, soaked or rather slaked in water, is efficacious in all possible ways for the destruction of insect life. Ap-

plied by a syringe, to trees infested with caterpillar, they are soon cleared away altogether. Ploughed into land, or forked into beds infested with grubs, it has the best possible effect; and where the garden is bounded by a hedge, which is the most harbouring of all receptacles for vermin, there is no better means of destroying the greater part of them, than sousing it well with lime water, by means of a garden engine."

THE FLORIST is embellished with very beautiful figures of two ericas, *Nobelis* and *Grande*, raised by W. H. Storey, Esq. The articles are of considerable interest; and one by Mr. Beck, on the pelargonium, is profusely illustrated with wood engravings, elucidative of the text. Mr. Beck says, in reference to the properties of a good geranium, "The flower should be of good size, say two inches in diameter, composed of five petals, two upper and three lower ones, and these should form a circle. They should be quite free from curl or crumple, stout and velvety in texture, with perfectly smooth edges, as if stamped out; the whole should be sufficiently broad at the base to prevent any portion of the green calyx being seen. The ground colour of the petals should be clear and pure, and the whole flower should be free from veins, which are always absent in varieties of the highest breeding. The spot should be very decided at the base, extending upwards, and in its termination forming a margined flower, and by its decision leaving a very distinct edging. \* \* It is a point of great excellence, when a dark spot, on a scarlet ground, changes into a distinct orange tint, before mingling with the body colour. It is also very pleasing when the spot, terminating above the nectary, leaves a white waxy throat. \* \* When a flower has a white eye, it should be dense and pure, but this will be formed, not so much by its own whiteness, as by the abrupt junction of the colour of the lower petal. How much the beauty of a flower depends upon a white eye, may frequently be found,

by covering it with another colour, when its charms immediately disappear. \* \* Another most important point in the florist's flower is that it should not burn, that is, have the colour of the spot disfigured when exposed to the sun or advancing season; neither should it sport, that is, bring some of its petals true, others party-coloured, or selfs; and an additional excellence is, that the bloom should die well, or, throughout the whole time of the plant's flowering, be equally good." The above remarks are excellent, and coming from a first-rate cultivator like Mr. Beck, will have additional force.

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### Part III.

## REVIEWS.

GLENNY'S GARDEN ALMANACK. *London: Houlston and Stoneman.*

A USEFUL guide for the amateur, containing lists of the best flowers, fruits, &c. Mr. Glenny has at times *hit us hard*; and though few people admire those who they think have acted injuriously towards them, yet, in common justice, we must say, that his book is well worth the money charged for it, and many useful hints contained therein, may with safety be acted on.

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PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CULTIVATION OF THE POTATO IN THE OPEN GROUND. THE STRAWBERRY, CUCUMBER, AND MELON. By James Cuthill, Florist, Camberwell.

THIS little book is well entitled *Practical Instructions*, &c. and contains more real information than many ten times its size. Mr. Cuthill is a most successful cultivator of the various articles here treated of, and his experience is detailed in a simple, straightforward

manner ; in fact, so plainly, that any one may readily understand and act on his directions. We shall, with Mr. Cuthill's permission, make extracts from time to time, for the benefit of our readers.

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### VEGETARIAN ADVOCATE.

THIS is a periodical which advocates the entire use of vegetable diet, and therefore is a friend to the gardener. We have not yet brought our mind down to live without beef ; nevertheless, much information on "*the substitutes*" for this *Old English fare*, are here brought together. Doubtless many people may laugh at the idea of living entirely on vegetables, bread, rice, &c., but this is done, possibly to a greater extent than many are aware of. Thousands of our fellow-countrymen seldom taste meat, and on the Continent the labouring classes do not touch it for months together ; bread, grapes, onions, and apples, are their only food.

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### QUERIES.

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Can you, or any of your numerous correspondents, inform me whether Davey's Rainbow, C.B., is in being ? and if so, where ? and if any for sale, price per pair, and what quantity ?  
*Oxford.* JAMES MALTBY.

I have been a subscriber to your useful little work, from the commencement, and there is no part of the number which I so eagerly peruse as that where your correspondents inquire for knowledge, and where it is so liberally bestowed by you. If you would give me information on the following you will much oblige :—I took to a garden at the beginning of the year, in which were raspberry trees, in two different situations, one (as I thought) favourable, and the other not so ; but at the time of fruiting, those in the favourable situation produced an immense quantity of suckers, and the fruit moulded, whilst I had four times the produce from those where I expected the least.

I have two cherry trees, which are not good sorts, can either plums or apricots be worked on them? The red currant and the gooseberry trees exhibited an awful appearance; the leaves fell off at fruiting time, as though they were attacked with the same disease as the potatoes, and the fruit was very small. The trees have suffered ever since. Will it be advisable to replace them? or what must I do to recover them?

*Stapleford.*

G. R.

I have a *Fuchsia fulgens* in my possession, which has not flowered these two years. Will you be good enough to tell me in the next number of the *Midland Florist*, how I am to proceed to obtain flowers next year? Am I to cut it down, and will next year's wood produce flowers? or shall I leave it as it is, and repot in rich soil, in the spring? I beg to observe that I have no greenhouse: of course you will make your remarks accordingly.

*Solihull.*

J. W. S.

Will you have the kindness to write, for the next number, an article on the indoor culture of the fuchsia?

THOS. B. SKIDMORE.

If not giving too much trouble, I should feel obliged for information on the following points respecting dahlias:—The names of the *best* twenty-four or thirty-six varieties, placed as nearly as possible in their order of merit. The best mode of treatment, soil, aspect, &c.; for *tipped* dahlias, as such, particularly the delicately tipped flowers, do not bloom true to colour in my garden. I have always remarked that tipped and striped dahlias grow best in gardens situated near the sea. Do you think a sprinkling of salt would be useful? or sea sand mixed with the soil? What is the best mode of shading the flowers? In one of your numbers, you recommended muslin bags. I did not try them this wet season, lest they might injure the petals, when saturated with rain. Is it better to plant out the old tubers, or *skips*, rooted in a hotbed? Some dahlias frequently flower semidouble with me. How can this be rectified?

*Dublin.*

A SUBSCRIBER.

[Our correspondent will find his first request complied with, at page 398. The remainder in our January number.]

Some time since, I noticed in the *Midland Florist*, a favourable account of the Muscat de Fontainebleau Grape. On inquiry of the nurserymen here, I find they are quite ignorant of the variety, under such name. Shall I be likely to meet with it under any other name? If not, where should application be made for either a young plant or cuttings? Information in the current number, will oblige

F., OF Y.

[In reply to our correspondent, we beg to say, that he may procure it of Mr. J. Rivers, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.]



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**CROSS-BREEDING, OR HYBRIDIZING.—JAMES WHITEHEAD.—**

We should say, that after impregnating a flower, it would be best to keep it *still*. Free exposure to air would not be detrimental, but *wet might*. By hybridizing scarlet flowers with pink ones of the same family, seedlings with deep rose-coloured flowers might reasonably be expected. A pencilled flower would be difficult to get from *Lucia rosea* Geranium, fertilized with scarlet; but sports and varieties are so singular, that we should say it is not impossible.

**ROSE-LEAF PINK.**—We hold the same opinion as our friend Tyro. It should be perfectly smooth. The smoothest edged black and white pinks that we have seen are, *Beauty of Clayton-le-Moor*, *Beauty of Blackburn*, *Broom Girl*, and *Purity*. *Jenny Lind*, *Double X*, *Marris's Rosalind*, *Headley's Duke of Northumberland*, and *Cant's Criterion*, are smooth, or nearly so.

**PLANTS FOR COVERING A TRELLIS.**—If our querist will refer to our article on the ivy, in this number, we hope he will find the information required. The other will be answered in a short article on pruning roses, in an early number.

**PROPAGATION OF THE CLEMATIS.**—Most are propagated by seed, such as *C. flammula* and *C. vitacella*; and the double varieties, such as *C. Florida pleno*, the *Double Purple*, and some others, by layers. These are generally layered in the current year's shoots, which will be well rooted by autumn. When seed is obtained, it should be sown in spring, in pans, and placed in a cold frame. Some of the varieties are a long time before they make their appearance.

## CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS,

FOR DECEMBER.

THE last month of the year has again overtaken us, and with it comes its cares and anxieties. In our gardens, much preparatory work requires attending to. For instance, large *fruit trees* can be pruned. This is easily effected. Get a good narrow-bladed pruning saw, and in frosty weather, if well worked, it

2 Q 2

will be found first-rate exercise. The tree should be examined, and if very full of wood in the centre, with branches crossing each other, the sooner the middle of the tree is thinned, and the cross branches cut away, the better. Whenever a branch is removed, let it be sawn away close to the one from which it proceeds: never leave *snags* or *stumps*, or the remedy will be as bad as the disease. By thinning out the branches, the sun and air will get to the tree equally; the fruit will not only be larger, but there will be more of it; the leaves will all be properly exposed, and the tree will be healthier. All young shoots proceeding from the lower part of the stem, or where the larger branches spread out, must be carefully cut away: they rob the tree of its sap, without being of any service. If trees require root-pruning, that may also be done. Nailing wall trees may be attended to, when the sun shines and the wind is still.

Prune the dead canes from *raspberries*, and fork over the ground, giving a good top-dressing of decayed manure.

Wheel manure on vacant ground, and dig it in, throwing the surface into ridges. Where land has been heavily dunged, year after year, we would advise a good dressing of lime, omitting the manure for a season. This will have a powerful and good effect.

On a dry day, stir the surface of the soil between newly-planted *cabbages*, and draw the earth to the stems of *Brussels sprouts*, *broccoli*, &c.

It will be advisable to remove the decayed leaves from *sea kale plants*, and cover the crowns with sand.

Where situations are adapted for them (warm and sheltered borders, for instance), *Short-top Radish*, *Early Peas*, and *Mazagan Beans* may be sown. *Eschalots* and *garlic* may also be planted with advantage, whenever the weather is suitable.

*Potatoes* that have been left in the ground till now, should be taken up. The sound ones will be easily detected. Every small one should be scrupulously saved for seed, for they will be scarce and dear in the spring. Take up *carrots*, *parsnips*, *mangold wurtzel*, *beet*, &c. if not already done, and stow them away dry, and out of the reach of frost.

In the *flower garden*, little can be done, with the exception of removing all dead and decayed matter, in the shape of leaves, stalks &c. These should be taken care of, to make vegetable soil, than which nothing is more valuable, for all sorts of plants. In open weather, turf may be laid down, and many alterations may be proceeded with, in the disposition of beds, &c. Half hardy plants, trained to walls, such as *passion flowers*, *fuchsias*, &c. will be better with a mat nailed over them. *Fuchsias*, in beds, should have the surface mulched with decayed leaves, or short decayed thatch or straw. *Alstromelias*, *hyacinths*, *gladioli*, &c. may be protected in a similar manner. *Tulips* should all

be in the ground. The bed ought to be boarded round, and filled with soil, at least nine inches above the level of the path; and the centre raised, in order that the wet may run off. The bulbs may be inserted four inches deep. Keep *carnations*, *pinks*, *pansies*, *auriculas*, and *polyanthuses*, in frames, constantly exposed, during all fine weather. Protect them from rain, and water very seldom, but when necessary, do it effectually, and carefully avoid wetting the foliage.

In the *greenhouse*, give air whenever possible, applying only as much fire as will ensure the plants against frost, or dry up damp. *Chrysanthemums* may have occasional doses of weak liquid manure. Any watering required should always be done in the morning.

## FLORAL EXHIBITIONS.

### THE FELTON UNION OF FLORISTS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

The members of the Felton Union of Florists and Horticulturists held their annual exhibition of tulips, pansies, and vegetables, being their second show for the season, in the dining-rooms of the Widdrington Arms Inn, Felton, when the prizes were awarded as follow:—

*Rose Tulips*.—1. W. Scott, Felton, Lilas Rose; 2, 4. A. Gowens, Felton, Comte de Vergennes and Rose Primo; 3. J. Thompson, Esq., Morpeth, Duchess of Clarence; 5. J. Morris, Sleckburn, Amadis; 6. W. Harrison, Felton Bridge End, Lady Crewe.

*Byblæmen Tulips*.—1, 2, 5. A. Gowens, Violet Imperial, Pearl Blanche, and Madam de Pompadour; 3. W. Harrison, Imperatrix Forum; 4. W. Scott, Diana; 6. J. Morris, Incomparable la Panache.

*Bizarre Tulips*.—1. T. Dawson, Acklington, Demetrius; 2. W. Scott, Prince Albert; 3, 4. W. Harrison, Harrison's Border Chief and Harrison's Duke of Northumberland; 5. J. Thompson, Esq., Surpass Catafalque; 6. A. Gowens, Glory of Harlem.

### TULIP SHOW.

The Manchester and South Lancashire tulip growers held their show (open to Great Britain) at the Zoological Gardens, Belle Vue, near Manchester, May 26, when prizes were awarded as follows, viz.:—

A silver cup, value £5, the gift of Mr. Jennison, the proprietor, to Mr. Bromily, for the best pan, consisting of Triumph Royal, Lady Crewe, Buckley's Beauty, Bienfait, San Joe, and Magnum Bonum.

A silver cup, value £2 10s. also the gift of Mr. Jennison, to Mr. Robinson, for the second pan, consisting of Triumph Royal, Walworth, Czarinne, Baguet, Lustre, and Charles X.

The society's prize for the best pan of three distinct breeders was won by Mr. Arden, with Duke of Hamilton, Newcastle, and Gibbons's Seedling.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1, 3. Mr. Arden, Magnum Bonum and Surpass Catafalque; 2. Mr. Acherley, George IV.; 4, 7. Mr. Thorniley, Polyphemus and Competitor; 5. Mr. Dixon, Lord Lilford; 6. Mr. Bromiley, Rufus; 8, 10. Mr. Slater, Lacantique and Humphrey Cheetham; 9. Mr. Robinson, Trafalgar.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2, 6, 8. Mr. Dixon, George IV, Albion, Polyphemus, and Earl Stanhope; 3. Mr. Slater, Don Cossack; 4, 5, 9. Mr. Bromiley, Pilot, Lustre, and Sidney; 7. Mr. Arden, Surpass Catafalque; 10. Mr. Robinson, Unknown.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. Mr. J. Hardman, Beauty; 2, 4, 8. Mr. Bromiley, Bienfait, La Belle Narene, and Maid of Orleans; 3. Mr. Robinson, Grotius; 5, 7, 9. Mr. Thorniley, Lady Flora Hastings, Gibbons's Seedling, and ditto; 6, 10. Mr. Dixon, Baguet and Incomparable Surpassant.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, 10. Mr. Thorniley, Gibbons's Seedling and Princess Royal; 2, 9. Mr. Robinson, Alexander Magnus and Lord Vernon; 3, 7. Mr. Dixon, Violet Wallers and Lady Flora Hastings; 4, 5, 8. Mr. Bromiley, Baguet, La Belle Narene, and Bank of England; 6. Mr. Arden, Grotius.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. Mr. Arden, Lady Crewe; 2. Mr. Dixon, Heroine; 3, 4. Mr. Bromiley, Seedling and Hero of the Nile; 5. Mr. Wych, Dolittle; 6, 9, 10. Mr. Thorniley, Gibbon's Seedling, Gibbons's Seedling, and Gibbons's Seedling; 7. Mr. Robinson, Comte de Vergenes; 8. Mr. Hardman, Walworth.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10. Mr. Bromiley, Rose Unique, Rose Vesta, Aglaia, Thalestris, Triumph Royal, Lady Crewe, and Unknown; 2, 9. Mr. Thorniley, Rose Elegance and Lady Middleton; 7. Mr. Arden, Lord Hill.

*Bizarre Breeders*.—1, 2, 3. Mr. Bromiley, Unknown, ditto, and Truth; 4. Mr. Slater, Unknown; 5. Mr. Arden, Unknown; 6. Mr. Dixon, Alderman Herbert.

*Byblæmen Breeders*.—1, 2. Mr. Thorniley, Gibbons's Breeder and ditto; 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Bromiley, Unknown, Lady Flora, Unknown, and ditto.

*Rose Breeders*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Bromiley, Unknown, ditto, ditto, Anastasia, Unknown, ditto.

*Self*.—Mr. Dixon, Min d'Or.

Mr. Jennison has offered two silver cups to the Manchester and South Lancashire Society, for the best and second pans, at their next open show, intended to be held in May, 1849, and a considerable number of names favorable to it have already been given in.

## TULIP SHOW,

At the Windmill Inn, Carrington, Cheshire, May 22.

Young growers' prizes.—1. C. Wych, Firebrand (Feathered Bizarre); 2. J. Clarke, Lustre (Flamed Bizarre); 3. Mr. Fogg, Toot (Feathered Byblæmen); 4. J. Cookson, Toot (Flamed Byblæmen); 5. J. Daine, Vulcan (Flamed Rose.)

Premier prizes.—1. C. Wych (kettle), Firebrand (Feathered Bizarre); 2. J. Ackerly (kettle), Baguet (Flamed Byblæmen); 3. J. Clarke (kettle), Dolittle (Feathered Rose.)

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. J. Daine, Magnum Bonum; 2. P. Daine, Waterloo; 3, 5, 6. C. Wych, Sovereign, Wellington, and Gold Buers; 4, 7. J. Clarke, Trafalgar and Surpass Catafalque.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3, 6. C. Wych, Lustre, Albion, Sovereign, and Unknown; 4. M. Fogg, Surpass Lacantique; 5. H. Daine, Surpass Catafalque; 7. J. L. Richardson, President.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1. J. L. Richardson, Baguet; 2. P. Daine, La Belle Narene; 3. J. Cookson, Toot; 4. H. Daine, Mango; 5. J. Clarke, Bienfait; 6. C. Wych, Washington.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, 3. J. L. Richardson, Lillard Violet and La Belle Narene; 2, 4, 5, 6. Toot, Violet Wallers, Violet Font Noir, and Unknown; 7. J. Ackerly, Gibbons's Seedling.

*Feathered Roses*.—1, 2, 3. C. Wych, Dolittle, Heroine, and Walworth; 4, 5. J. Ackerly, Count and Unknown; 6. H. Daine, Holden Rose; 7. J. L. Richardson, Triumph Royal.

*Flamed Roses*.—1, 2, 3, 4. C. Wych, Vesta, Pouncia Brilliant, Unique, and Lord Hill; 5. J. Cookson, Triumph Royal; 6. J. Clarke, Thalestris; 7. H. Daine, Vulcan.

*Breeders*.—J. Ackerly, (Bizarre) Gibbons's Seedling; 2. J. Ackerly, (Byblæmen) Gibbons's Seedling; 3. C. Wych, (Rose) Gibbons's Seedling.

*Selfs*.—1. J. Cookson, Min d'Or; 2. C. Wych, White Perfection.

## LEEDS UNITED FLORAL SOCIETY.

TULIP SHOW, Monday, May 23, at the house of Mr. Dobbins, Golden Cock Inn, Kirk-gate.

Premier prize, J. Bramma, Magnum Bonum.

1st pan.—J. Bramma, Magnum Bonum, Poyphemus, Bienfait, Rubens, Lady Crewe, Ruby, and Lady Sale; 2nd. J. W. Sower, Platoff, Polyphemus, Imperatrice Florum, Roi de Siam, Walworth, Rose Unique, and Cotherstone.

*Feathered Bizarres*.—1. E. Schofield, Charles X.; 2. J. W. Bower, Platoff; 3, 6. J. Hopwood, Catafalque and Napoleon; 4. E. Mitchell, Firebrand; 5. W. Chadwick, Napoleon.

*Flamed Bizarres*.—1, 2. T. Stephens, Polyphemus and Lord Brougham; 3. E. Mitchell, Pompey's Pillar; 4. J. Mallinson, Platoff; 5. H. Chadwick, Parnassus; 6. J. Hopwood, Rufus.

*Feathered Byblæmens*.—1, 3. J. Jepson, Bienfait and Maid of Orleans; 2. W. Chadwick, Trulotto; 4. La Belle Narene; 5. J. Smith, Ambassador; 6. J. W. Bower, Imperatrice Florum.

*Flamed Byblæmens*.—1, 2. J. W. Bower, Roide Siam and Alexander Magnus; 3. J. Hopwood, Princess Royal; 4, 6. J. Smith, David and Rubens; 5. Pearl le Blanc.

*Feathered Roses*.—1. J. Jepson, Lady Crewe; 2, 6. J. Hopwood, Heroine and Lady Middleton; 3. W. Chadwick, Lady Middleton; 4. J. W. Bower, Walworth; 5. E. Schofield, Dolittle.

*Flamed Roses*.—1. J. W. Bower, Unique; 2. J. Mallinson, Triumph Royal; 3, 5. J. Brama, Naverino and Gibbons's Seedling; 4. E. Mitchell, Rose Aglaia; 6. Rose Unique.

*Selfs*.—1. E. Mitchell, Min d'Or; 2. W. Chadwick, Cotherstone; 3. C. Benton, Sovereign; 4, 6. E. Schofield, Flag and Min d'Or; 5. J. Hopwood, Seedling.

*Breeders*.—1. T. Stephens, Maid of Orleans; 2. J. Mallinson, Lady Sale; 3. W. Chadwick, Polyphemus; 4, 5. J. Hopwood, Anastasia and Maid of Orleans; 6. J. Brammer, Unknown.

The judges were Mr. John Rhodes, of Woodhouse; Mr. B. Ely, of Rothwell Haigh; and Mr. T. Benn; who in their arduous duties acquitted themselves to the perfect satisfaction of the exhibitors.

## CAMBRIDGE FLORISTS' SOCIETY.

Tuesday, July 18.

### CARNATIONS.

Premier prize, R. Headley, Hugo Meynell.

*Scarlet Bizarres*.—1, 4, 5. Mr. Twitchett, Twitchett's Don John, Gameboy, Duke of Sutherland; 2. Mr. Headley, William Cobbett; 3, 6. Mr. Ready, Don John and Gameboy.

*Crimson Bizarres*.—1, 2, 3. Mr. Headley, Hugo Meynell, Lord Milton, and Sir Rowland Hill; 4, 5, 6. Mr. Ready, Paul Pry, Wood's William IV. and Wood's William IV.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1, 2. Mr. Headley, King of Scarlets and Prince of Wales; 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Catling, Addenbrooke's Lydia, Addenbrooke's Lydia, Marquis of Granby and William IV.

*Purple Flakes*.—1. Mr. Headley, Headley's Royal Chancellor; 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twitchett, Beauty of Woodhouse, Empress of Purples, Bellerophon, Incognita, and Beauty of Woodhouse.

*Rose Flakes*.—1, 3. Mr. Headley, Flora's Garland and Ely's Lady Gardiner; 2, 4, 5. Mr. Twitchett, Ely's Lovely Ann, Flora's Garland, and Lovely Ann; 6. Mr. Green, Wilson's Harriet.

### PICOTEES.

Premier prize, Mr. Headley, Headley's King James.

*Heavy-edged Red*.—1, 2, 4, 5. Mr. Headley, Headley's King James, ditto, ditto, and ditto; 3. Mr. Twitchett, Headley's King James; 6. Mr. Ready, Headley's King James.

*Light-edged Red*.—1, 2. Mr. Lenton, Unknown and Unknown; 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twitchett, Countess de Grey, Gem, La Delicata, and Gem.

*Heavy-edged Purple*.—1, 2. Mr. Headley, Wood's Princess Alice and ditto; 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twitchett, Wood's Princess Alice, ditto, ditto, and Nulli Secundus.

*Light-edged Purple*.—1, 2, 3, 6. Mr. Twitchett, (seedling) Twitchett's Antigone, La Elegante, La Elegante, and Vespasian; 4. Mr. Headley, Primmitt's Bendigo and Erchantress.

*Heavy edged Rose*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twitchett, Headley's Venus, ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, and ditto.

*Light-edged Rose*.—1, 2, 5. Mr. Twitchett, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Barnard, and Lady Dacre; 3, 4, 6. Mr. Catling, Miss Desborough, ditto, and ditto.

*Yellow*.—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Mr. Twitchett, Euphemia, Euphemia, Queen Victoria, Topaz, Queen Victoria, and Topaz.

## LEICESTER AMATEUR FLORISTS' SOCIETY.

The second exhibition of this society, for the display of carnations and picotees, stove and greenhouse plants, took place at the New Hall, Wellington-street, Leicester.

## OPEN CLASS.

1st pan of six carnations, Mr. R. Marris, Ely's King of Scarlets, Turner's William Penn, Hepworth's Hamlet, Bottomley's Beauty of Brighthouse, May's Ariel, and May's Silvius; 2nd. Mr. Hudson, Ward's Sarah Payne, Lodge's Royal Briton, Weldon's Earl of Lichfield, Taylor's Lord Byron, Jane Clough, and Holland's No. 12; 3rd. Mr. W. Mitchell, Tomlyn's Brides, Ely's Lady Milton, Major Cartwright, Greasley's Lord Brougham, Royal Briton, and Jacques's Gloriana; 4th. Mr. T. W. Hollyoake, Jacques's Georgiana, Ely's Lovely Ann, Brabbin's Squire Meynell, Hollyoake's Sairey Gamp, and Edith, and Norman's Duke of Wellington.

1st pan of three carnations, Mr. R. Marris, Colcutt's Juba, Barnard's Duke of Roxburgh, and Ward's Fireball; 2nd. Mr. T. W. Hollyoake, Squire Meynell, Essom's Admiral Curzon, and Hollyoake's Florence Dombey; 3rd. Mr. Hudson, Willmer's Venella, Boone's Adventurer, and Merchant's Lady Peel.

1st pan of six picotees, Mr. R. Marris, Marris's Prince of Wales, Marris's Prince Albert, Wildman's Isabella, May's Portia, Edmonds's Jenny Lind, and Gatliff's Proconsul; 2nd. Mr. Hudson, Gatliff's Regina, Wildman's Isabella, Marris's Sylvanus, Marris's Prince Albert, Proconsul, and Mrs. Bevan; 3rd. Mr. W. Mitchell, Bowley's Lovely Ann, Sharp's La Elegante, Hollyoake's Viola, Wood's Princess Alice, Ely's Favourite, and Lord Chancellor; 4th. Mr. T. W. Hollyoake, Proconsul, Primmitt's Bendigo, Matthews's Enchantress, Headley's Venus, Burroughs's Emma, and General Jackson.

1st pan of three picotees, Mr. R. Marris, Portia, Venus, and Marris's Prince of Wales; 2nd. Mr. Hudson, Enchantress, Norman's Miss Smith, and Gatliff's Regina; 3rd. Mr. T. W. Hollyoake, Venus, General Jackson, and Lee's Privateer; 4th. Mr. W. Mitchell, Ely's Favorite, Princess Alice, and Viola.

## CLASSES.

## CARNATIONS.

*Scarlet Bizarre*.—1. Mr. W. Mitchell, Ely's Lord Pollington.

*Crimson Bizarre*.—1. Mr. Hudson, Slater's Gladiator.

*Purple Flakes*.—1. Mr. Hollyoake, Pollard's First-rate; 2. Mr. W. Mitchell, Hudson's Miss Thornton.

*Scarlet Flakes*.—1. Rev. S. Wigg, Wigg's Earl of Leicester; 2. Mr. R. Marris, Ward's Fireball; 3, 4, 5. Mr. Hudson, Venella, Fireball, and Patriot.

*Rose Flakes*.—1. Mr. R. Marris, (a superb bloom) Flora's Garland; 2. Mr. W. Mitchell, Sir George Crewe; 3, 4. Mr. Hollyoake, Lady Ely and Seedling; 5. Mr. Hudson, Elliott's Martha.

## PICOTEE.

*Light-edged Red*.—1, 2, 5. Mr. Hudson, Mrs. Bevan, Maid of Honour, and Sharp's Wellington; 3. Mr. W. Mitchell, Lightbody's Mrs. Wilson; 4. Mr. Hollyoake, Mrs. Bevan.

*Heavy-edged Red*.—1, 3, 4, 5. Mr. Marris, Marris's Prince of Wales, Lee's Privateer, Wildman's Isabella, and Wildman's Isabella; 2. Mr. W. Mitchell, Bradshaw's Sir Walter Scott.

*Light-edged Purple*.—1, 2, 3, 4. Mr. Hudson, Marris's Seedling C, Vespasian, Burroughs's Miss Jane, and Matthew's Enchantress; 5. Mr. G. Evans, John's Prince Albert; 6. Enchantress; 7. Norwich Rival; 8. Mr. Mitchell, Enchantress.

*Heavy-edged Purple*.—1, 2, 3. Mr. R. Marris, Marris's Prince Albert, May's Portia, and Ely's Mrs. Lilley; 4. Mr. Mitchell, Princess Alice; 5, 6. Mr. Hudson, Conductor and Princess Alice; 7, 8. Mr. Evans, Princess Alice and Elizabeth.

*Heavy-edged Rose*.—1, 2. Mr. R. Marris, Headley's Venus and Proconsul; 3. Mr. Hudson, Proconsul; 4, 5, 6. Mr. Hollyoake, Proconsul, Crouch's Conserva-tive, and Proconsul.

*Light-edged Rose*.—1. Mr. G. Evans, Lady Alice Peel; 2. Mr. Mitchell, Snowball; 3. Mr. Hollyoake, Lady Alice Peel.

*Yellow*.—Mr. Hollyoake, Barrand's Euphemia.

Judges.—Mr. Wood, of the Coppice, near Nottingham; and Mr. Donaldson, gardener to C. B. Robinson, Esq.

## ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

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It often happens that people are surprised at their own success. We are not, however, astonished at the popularity of our little work, when we take into consideration the help we have received from some of the best practical florists and gardeners in the midland counties; and to them, not only our own thanks, but the thanks of our readers also are due. As for ourselves, having had (*boy and man*) nearly thirty years' practical experience in floriculture and horticulture, we do not profess to make any observations on what we have either said or done, leaving it to our friends and readers to make what comments they choose on our editorial labours.

We do not see in what way we can increase the utility of the *Midland Florist*; but as we are not infallible, and our only aim is extensive usefulness, we shall be happy to receive from our numerous correspondents and readers, suggestions for our guidance. Those sent with the real names of the writers will receive the greatest attention; for this simple reason, that where good is intended, the parties offering the suggestions, need not be ashamed of their names; and as it is for our own private information, the strictest confidence will be observed.

We acknowledge with pride the encomiums passed on the *Midland Florist*, by the *Press* of the United Kingdom, a tolerably sure index of its utility, and the general excellence of the contributions of its talented correspondents.

Through the past year, we have had, in connexion with the work, but one source of sorrow, namely, the constant complaint that the *Midland Florist* could not be obtained. In order to obviate this source of uneasiness, we shall issue, with the first of the coming year, a *stamped edition*, which, we trust, will meet the difficulty, and ensure general satisfaction. This edition will be supplied by our publisher, on payment of four shillings in advance.

It has been suggested to us, that as *three floricultural works*, published in the metropolis, have been commenced, since we ventured on the rather "*ticklish affair*" of conducting a *provincial periodical*, to meet the "*opposition*," (!) we should make some large promises of what we will do for next year. Now we must say, that *we are glad of their appearance*, as evidencing an increasing taste in the public mind for what we have most at heart. Independent of which, we have experienced the most kindly feeling from their respective editors. So that, under these circumstances, *we will not promise* any more than we have done; and we are quite sure, that nine-tenths of our readers are satisfied that the work is reasonable in price, full of information, and, *as we have abundant evidence to prove*, extensively useful.

Here then we stop: only observing, that as our friends find the *Midland Florist*, and *Suburban Horticulturist* to be worthy of their encouragement, so we hope they will endeavour to promote its circulation amongst those of similar feelings and pursuits with themselves.

J. F. W.

THE COPPICE, NEAR NOTTINGHAM,  
DECEMBER 1, 1848.



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